

Wrestling, college style

with tough issues (like Catholicism and anti-gay violence) keeps students busy.

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NOW voyagers

Dykes do D.C. and honor Phyl & Del.

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**Queens at sea**

Aboard the good sloop Survivor in 'Rock the Boat.'

see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 29 • No. 17 • 29 April 1999

Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 28 years

Arbor Day tree planting at AIDS Grove

Seedlings to be distributed

by Cynthia Laird



photos by Jack Porter

The National AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park is in immediate need of drainage work to prevent flooding in the meadow during the rainy season, as shown at right. A new fundraising campaign will help pay for repairs so that the meadow can be excavated to clean up the silt, and the meadow's topsoil can be broken up to allow it to drain properly, as shown in the top photo. The grove will host an Arbor Day tree planting event Friday.



In their first observance of Arbor Day, the National AIDS Memorial Grove and Friends of the Urban Forest will dedicate the grove's new Arbor Day Knoll this Friday, April 30 starting at 11:30 a.m. Interested community members are welcome to attend the ceremony in the seven-acre grove within San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, in remembrance of all those who have died of AIDS-related complications.

A 10-foot coastal redwood tree will be planted in the knoll, and redwood seedlings will be offered to ceremony attendees to plant in their own yards, local parks, or along roadsides in memory of loved ones touched by AIDS. Following the late morning event, grove volunteers will distribute as many as 1,000 seedlings to commuters at the Castro Street Muni station and the Montgomery Street Muni and BART station from 4 to 6 p.m.

"While thousands of trees and plants have been planted in the grove over the last nine years of its development, this will be the first year we have remembered those who have passed by linking the grove with National Arbor Day," said Thom Weyand, executive director. "In addition, the grove wanted to bring attention to the need for nurturing

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Feds to audit AIDS spending

by Bob Roehr

Three influential members of Congress have asked the General Accounting Office (GAO) to "conduct a performance audit and evaluation of all federal AIDS/HIV programs and services." Such a review is not unusual when a program is up for renewal.

Ryan White AIDS services programs will be up for a five-year reauthorization in 2000. The GAO report probably will not be completed until early next year.

The April 20 request came in a letter signed by House Majority Leader Dick Armey (R-Texas) and Thomas Bliley, Jr. (R-Virginia), chairman of the Committee on Commerce, which has jurisdiction over these programs.

The third member, Dr. Tom Coburn, (R-Oklahoma), is vice chair of the Subcommittee on Health and Environment. He is closely allied with James Dobson, head of the arch-conservative Focus on the Family. Coburn was the driving force behind the request.

"Congress has a moral obligation

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Wheels of Fortune, Part Two: The goal of a community

by Jim Provenzano



Larry Hall, second year AIDS Rider

According to fitness trainer Larry Hall, "Until you experience the ride, you don't know what it's like."

He means the annual California AIDS Ride, and compares the challenge of training for the 560-mile event to that of a PWA's struggle. "You have these people with HIV who meet their challenge every day," he marvels. He finds it so inspirational, he's volunteered since October to spend weekends leading cycling groups from Ocean Beach's Cliff House to Woodside in San Mateo County, or traveling 15-70 miles into Marin County. Eventually the training rides will increase to about 100 miles.

Hall did work with the AIDS Action Committee when he lived in Boston, fundraising in many ways. But, he says, "In the 1980s everyone seemed to be dying. I got burned out. Literally everyone I knew died of AIDS." When he moved to Germany in 1996, he found AIDS fundraising efforts there incredibly futile.

Back in the U.S., he saw flyers for the California AIDS Ride and joined up.

"My first reason was more selfish," he says. "I just wanted to meet people."

It's only after he got involved that he found "it's also about helping people."

And of course, it's about the ride to Los Angeles, by turns grueling and exhilarating. By the end of the first day cyclists will have traveled 92 miles to Santa Cruz. "Most peo-

ple use hybrids or mountain bikes," he said. "It depends on what people can afford." He spent several thousand dollars on a custom-made bike and accessories, as well as hundreds in postage for fundraising. He considers it all an investment.

Although he says financial considerations can be "somewhat limiting," the nature of the fundraiser leads to creative ways to get the wheels in motion. "Some people find ways to

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HIV planning council angry over mayor's (lack of) reappointments

by Cynthia Laird

A spirited discussion erupted at the HIV Health Services Planning Council meeting Monday, April 26, after some members questioned the status of two outspoken members. Mayor Willie Brown, who has refused to reappoint one of the men, left the status of council Co-chair Tom Calvanese in limbo.

In a related matter, the council agreed with plans for a community meeting sponsored by ACT UP/Golden Gate and the Harvey Milk Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Democratic Club on Monday, May 17, so that residents can debate the future of the council and the roles of the mayor's office and the Department of Public Health's AIDS Office in the federally-mandated body.

Steve Kawa, in the mayor's office of legislative affairs, and Bill Barnes, the mayor's HIV/AIDS policy advisor, failed to answer members' questions Monday about what prompted the removal from the council of Loras Ojeda, who had chaired the council's membership committee. That group is responsible for submitting a list of prospective members, from which the mayor makes appointments.

Before Kawa addressed the council, several people spoke during public comment; all praised Ojeda and Calvanese, and spoke against Ojeda's removal from the body, which prioritizes and allocates federal Ryan White CARE Act funds for San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin counties. Although the planning council was established by federal legislation, some in the mayor's office have apparently tried to lump it in with other city boards and commissions.

Ojeda attended the meeting and addressed the council. "I want to let go of this," he said. "I've tried to bring to the table a perspective as a Latino and hopefully other people. I feel kind of sifted out of that because of who I am, quite frankly."

The move to have numerous councilmembers reapply last month was similar to September 1996, when Dean Goodwin, then Brown's liaison to the LGBT community, attended a council meeting and informed all members that they needed to reapply.



Steve Kawa

Kawa told the council that the mayor would move quickly to fill between seven and eight vacancies on the planning council, but insisted on being given three names for every opening by May 15, a daunting challenge to a membership committee that now has no chair. Many of the other people on the council expressed their strong disapproval of the mayor's actions, which were outlined in a March 30 letter that stated Calvanese and Ojeda were the only two members out of 10 who were not reappointed by the mayor.

Recently, Kawa sent a letter to Calvanese stating that the mayor would like him to continue serving until Brown appoints someone to his seat. Calvanese took issue with that. "I don't agree to continue until the mayor makes an appointment. I agree to continue in accordance with our by-laws," he told the council.

Calvanese told the Bay Area Reporter that his vote last year concerning mental health services funding prompted the mayor's decision to remove him. "It's based on that mental health vote," Calvanese said, adding that everyone who voted against the proposal favored by the mayor has either resigned, been kicked off, or died, with the exception of Co-chair Diane Jones. "Loras [Ojeda] and I were the last ones," Calvanese said.

B movie performance

Kawa was obviously on the spot as he attempted – unsuccessfully – to steer the conversation away from the controversy over Calvanese and Ojeda, to issues facing the council in coming

months around prioritization needs and the reauthorization of the CARE Act, which comes before Congress next year.

"It's a very difficult job, being mayor," Kawa said. He went on to explain that on virtually all city boards and commissions, people serve for one-year terms, and that membership is generally staggered so that members with experience can help new appointees. The planning council has a staggered membership with some members who have been on for many years and others who are new to the group.

"I think Loras has been very good for this council. It sounds like political double talk," said councilmember Veronika Cauley as she addressed Kawa.

"That was the decision that was made," Kawa replied, referring to Ojeda not getting reappointed.

Jones took issue with the assumption made by the mayor's office that the council has no process. She pointed out the detailed council bylaws that includes membership information. The membership committee, she added, has worked hard over the years to clearly define membership terms. "What I hear Bill [Barnes] and Steve [Kawa] saying is 'We want you to move on.' What I hear from people on the council is we can't move on," Jones said.

"I'm having a real hard time being here right now," Calvanese said. "This is really disgusting to me, the worst. What I signed up for was the best. As an HIV-positive man that's why I came to the table." He went on to praise Ojeda for making "a major contribution" to the council.

After Kawa left, councilmembers unloaded. Stephan Oxendine called it a "grade B movie performance," and Laura Guzman said the mayor's actions could "have a chilling effect" on civil rights issues.

Barnes said the council has much important work to do and will presumably take the council's concerns to the mayor. "We hear you, I think," he said. ▼

The May 17 community meeting will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. at MCC-SF, 150 Eureka Street. For more information, call Matthew Sharp at ACT UP/Golden Gate at (415) 252-9200.

Bathhouse gathering Sunday

by Liz Highleyman

The next meeting of an ad hoc group formed in response to San Francisco's continued ban on private rooms in public sex venues will be held this Sunday, May 2.

The group began meeting after a March 24 Department of Public Health (DPH) community forum on sex club regulations. The current "Minimum Standards for the Operation of Sex Clubs and Parties" were instituted as mandatory regulations in early 1997. The rules include a prohibition on

closed rooms and a requirement that club personnel monitor patrons' sexual behavior.

Proponents of the regulations believe that they curb sexual behavior that could lead to the transmission of HIV. Opponents maintain that there is no scientific evidence that sexual activity in closed spaces is associated with higher HIV transmission rates.

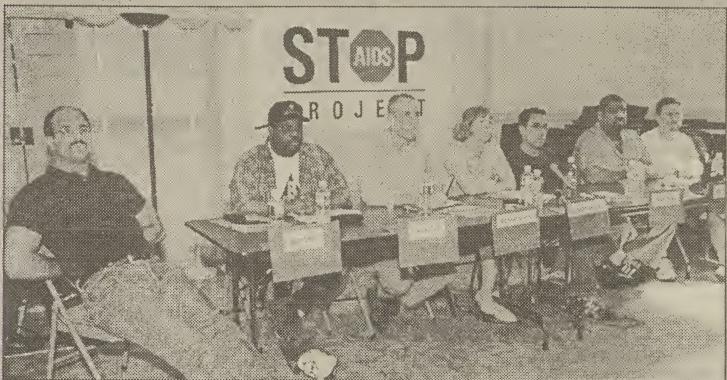
At the March 24 forum, and at a Health Commission meeting on April 6, Health Director Dr. Mitch Katz indicated that he did not foresee a change in the city's sex club rules. Proponents of private

spaces in sex venues were present at the April 6 and April 20 meetings of the Health Commission, as well as at the April 8 meeting of the city's HIV Prevention Planning Council.

The as-yet-unnamed ad hoc group has been meeting for about a month. Among the items that have been discussed are a ballot initiative to reopen bathhouses in San Francisco and direct actions to call attention to the issue. ▼

The meeting starts at 6 p.m. at MCC-SF, 150 Eureka Street, in the Castro.

Where is gay sex going?



Panelists at the Stop AIDS Project's public forum, "HIV '99 Current Trends," held Saturday, April 24 at MCC San Francisco, addressed the current state of HIV and AIDS and the ongoing restlessness among gay and bi men surrounding safe sex. Pictured from left are Ron Stall (UCSF); Jamal Bey (Black Brothers Esteem/SF AIDS Foundation); Michael Scarce (author and health activist); Sandy Schwarz (SF Dept. of Public Health); Robert Perez (Stop AIDS Project); Deja Dior-Britt (New Village transgender program); and Gilbert Pickett (Bay Positives).

Teen convicted in Ukiah gay killing

by Lois Pearlman

Despite a defense attorney's attempts to prove his client was not at the scene of the crime, a Ukiah jury Friday, April 16 found a local teen guilty in the 1998 killing of a gay man near Lake Mendocino.

The first of two defendants in the brutal beating death of Louis Pearson, 19-year-old Christopher McCoy of Calpella, faces life without possibility of parole since the jury also ruled him guilty of the special circumstance of murder during the commission of a robbery.

The jury took two days to sift through nearly three weeks of testimony, in which witnesses described how McCoy and his friend Richard "Rick" Fernandez, along with a third man, Keith Pruitt, allegedly met Pearson on a

street near their home and agreed to accompany him to the spot where he was killed. Pearson, an Aptos resident, had just left a Billy Club gathering in Lake County before he met up with the three men in Calpella.

Fernandez, 24, is also slated to stand trial for Pearson's murder. His case is scheduled for a hearing April 30 to determine a trial date.

Pruitt, 25, pleaded guilty last fall to robbery in exchange for having his murder charges dropped. Testimony at a preliminary hearing indicated that Pruitt had fled the scene after the trio stole Pearson's money, but before the beating that took Pearson's life.

According to a coroner's report, a stick shoved up Pearson's nose and into his brain also contributed to his death.

Although police and the Mendocino County District Attorney's

office never denied that the killing may have been a hate crime, they said it was not charged as one because the hate crime statute that adds enhancements in the case of murder does not include the category "sexual orientation."

Scott Love, a resource coordinator for the Billy Club in Mendocino County said he was happy that justice had been served, but he thinks locals would have paid more attention to the trial if it had been made clear that it was a hate crime.

"It's really a shame we live in a world where this kind of crime still happens," he said.

Speaking for the Billy Club he commented, "We're deeply saddened that it happened. This was the first time Louis came up for a Billy Club meeting."

McCoy is scheduled for sentencing on his murder conviction June 7. ▼

Mora murder trial postponed until July

by Cynthia Laird

The trial for accused murderer Edgard Mora that was scheduled to begin this month has been postponed until July 12, according to a spokeswoman at San Francisco Superior Court. Mora is charged with killing gay city resident Brian Wilmes last March, and has pleaded not guilty to a charge of murder and a misdemeanor charge of assault against a witness. The murder charge car-

ries a hate crime enhancement.

The trial postponement is the latest step in the case, following a preliminary hearing last November where Superior Court Judge Ellen Chaitin ruled there was enough evidence for trial. During the preliminary hearing, Wilmes' friend Timothy Carroll testified that Mora shook Wilmes after throwing a single punch that knocked Wilmes to the ground outside of the Loading Dock, a gay bar on Mission Street, on March 12, 1998. Wilmes, 45, died of head

injuries two days later. According to the testimony of Carroll, who was with Wilmes at the time of the attack, Mora yelled variations of the phrase "Do you want a piece of me, faggot?" four times during the few minutes leading up to and following Mora's single punch to Wilmes' mouth.

At the preliminary hearing last year, Chaitin said Carroll's testimony about the shaking showed there was "sufficient implied malice" to make Mora stand trial on the murder charge. ▼

'Senior Survival' series starts Monday

by Cynthia Laird

If you're a gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) senior citizen who could use some help learning your rights, you'll want to check out the "Senior Survival" series starting this Monday, May 3. Presented by Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders (GLOE) and Plan-

ning for Elders in the Central City, the free Monday afternoon series will provide a wealth of information.

Workshops will explore such concerns as help with personal safety; finding out if seniors need more help at home, including home security; solving problems related to transportation; and personal finance issues. Organizers said participants will discover their

rights, services they're entitled to, and benefits they deserve. People are encouraged to bring questions and concerns with them.

The series will continue on May 10, 17, and 24; all session run from 1 to 4 p.m. at 145 Guerrero Street, near Market and Duboce streets. To register or for more information, call Valerie Hayden at GLOE at (415) 255-2937. ▼

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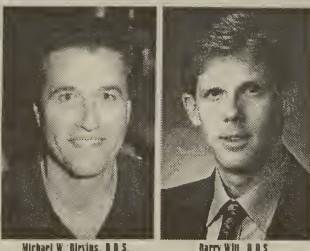
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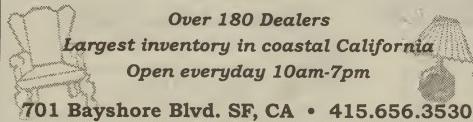
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Transition into workplace help for people with HIV/AIDS offered in May

by Mark Norby

Starting in May, a new legal clinic co-sponsored by AIDS Benefits Counselors (ABC) Positive Resource Center and the AIDS Legal Referral Panel (ALRP) will provide assistance to people with HIV and AIDS who are thinking about working but face credit or housing barriers.

On the first and third Wednesday of each month ABC Positive Resource Center will offer drop-in legal workshops and clinics covering different topics. The first workshop, this Wednesday, May 5, will cover ways that going to work can affect credit: participants will learn how to obtain their credit history, understand credit reports, and repair credit problems.

The workshops will begin at 2 p.m. at 973 Market Street, between 5th and 6th streets, on the

6th floor.

"On Wednesday, May 19 participants will learn strategies for securing and maintaining housing in today's market, as well as their rights in respect to rental subsidy programs, reasonable accommodations, substandard living conditions and eviction," says Ken Bukowski, executive director at ABC Positive Resource Center. After each workshop, participants have an opportunity to discuss their individual situations with a staff attorney and will be connected with further legal assistance as needed through ALRP's extensive list of community attorneys.

"These new legal clinics are essential for some people to successfully transition into the workplace," Bukowski explains. "It is difficult to hold down a steady job without stable housing, or to start getting a paycheck again when you have creditors at your

doorstep. We are excited to add this type of legal assistance to our continuum of employment services that includes job search skills workshops, resume assistance, career counseling, computer training, benefits counseling, support groups, and job placement assistance."

ABC Positive Resource Center serves over 2,500 people living with HIV/AIDS each year and is recognized as the preferred provider of benefits counseling and employment services in Northern California. The new legal clinics are made possible through support from the HIV/AIDS Employment Development Unit of the San Francisco Department of Public Health. ▼

For more information about the legal clinic or other agency services, call (415) 777-0333.

Interactive workshop on intimacy for gay, bi men Sat. at Rainbow Comm. Center

by Cynthia Laird

The Rainbow Community Center of Contra Costa County will host a free interactive workshop for gay and bisexual men this Saturday, May 1 in Pleasant Hill. Rodney Karr, Ph.D. will facilitate the session, entitled "Intimacy, Relationships,

Dating, and Sex."

The workshop's goals are to have gay and bisexual men learn how to increase intimacy in their lives, and to develop stronger, more satisfying connections to friends, boyfriends, lovers, and spouses. Delectable desserts will be provided by Tiers of Joy.

Karr is a licensed psychologist who has been working with gay and bisexual men for over 20 years. He has been affiliated with the University of California, San Francisco's medical school, the former Operation Concern (now New Leaf Services for our Community), and other community organizations. In the early 1980s he developed workshops for Shanti and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation addressing anxiety about HIV/AIDS for gay and bisexual men. Karr currently lives

in Walnut Creek and has a private practice that includes individual psychotherapy and group sessions for gay and bisexual men.

The Rainbow Community Center is a safe, supportive, nurturing environment for all in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community. The center offers a range of social, education, and support opportunities.

Saturday's workshop is funded in part by an AIDS awareness grant from the Contra Costa County Public Health AIDS Program. ▼

The workshop takes place from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the Rainbow Community Center, 2637 Pleasant Hill Road, in Pleasant Hill. For more information, call (925) 210-0563 or visit the website www.rainbowcc.org.

HIV/AIDS rights confab Sat.

by Mark Norby

A panel of community experts will discuss disability rights for people living with HIV/AIDS, mental illness, or other disabilities this Saturday, May 1 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Koret Auditorium at the San Francisco New Main Library.

"The panel will focus on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)," says Betsy Johnsen of the AIDS Legal Referral Panel (ALRP), "and will deal with rights

to employment, housing and access to public services for those living with HIV or AIDS, as well as those living with mental illness or other diseases that affect one's ability to gain employment and housing opportunities."

The first two hours will be dedicated to employment rights and to questions concerning reentering the work force. The last hour will handle the hurdles to overcome in the search for and in the retention of local housing. Speakers include ALRP housing attorney Peter

next page ▶

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COMMUNITY NEWS

San Franciscans prosper with Pride

by Cynthia Laird

Pride is profitable. Last year alone, people spent \$80 million in San Francisco directly as a result of the annual celebration of queer pride, according to a survey conducted at last year's event. Of the \$80 million brought into the local economy, \$59.5 million came directly from tourists who made the trip solely for Pride 1998, while city residents spent \$16.5 million.

San Francisco Supervisors Tom Ammiano, Leslie Katz, and Mark Leno joined Teddy Witherington, executive director of the San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Celebration Committee, Inc., in announcing the survey results last Thursday, April 22. The figures are based on an estimate of 500,000 participants at the pride celebration.

Although the figures may seem high, pride organizers say they're actually quite conservative. The \$80 million includes only money directly attributable to the day of the Pride Parade, and as Katz pointed out, "In addition to the celebration, there's also Family Day on Saturday, the film festival, and a number of other events not included in this figure."

Witherington pointed out that when the city's hotel tax fund granted the pride committee \$85,000, it got a return of more than 300 percent: the survey showed 74,970 hotel room nights were booked as a direct result of the pride weekend, generating \$281,137 directly into the hotel tax fund as part of \$1.5 million in hotel taxes collected. The survey also estimated \$56,227 went directly to Muni.

As the survey results were released, Leno focused on how the event benefits local merchants. "We call pride a second Christmas, if not a second Hanukkah," he said. "Merchants in this city plan for June. It's a big event for their inventory calendar."

"This money trickles down to the smallest businesses in San Francisco, including small shop owners and street vendors," said Leno, who runs a small business.

The gay, lesbian, bisexual, and

transgender community considers San Francisco a home," said Calvin Gipson, president of the board. "We're happy to be able to give back to the city."

Half male, half female

The survey was based on a questionnaire designed by the South Bank University of London. It was tested at the Castro Street Fair in 1997 and then adapted for last year's pride celebration, administered by independent staff supplied by Proserve. Proserve staff were evenly distributed across the celebration site at Civic Center, and approached people at random. No incentives were given for completing the questionnaires. There were 1,118 surveys completed, representing a random sample of attendees. Positive Resource Center provided staff for data input, and Elliot Brown & Associates analyzed the results pro bono.

Survey results showed 35 percent of pride attendees were people of color, the average age of attendees was 35, and attendance by gender was nearly even, with 48 percent of respondents identifying as female and 51 percent identifying as male. One percent identified as transgender/other. Regarding sexual orientation, 35 percent identified as gay male; 29 percent as lesbian/dyke; 17 percent as heterosexual; 10 percent as bisexual; 5 percent as queer; 2 percent as transgender; and 2 percent as other.

Other survey highlights:

- The average annual income was \$30,000.
- Fifty-three percent of the respondents listed professional, managerial, or director as their occupation. Others included students, 11 percent and skilled worker/trade, 12 percent. Only 4 percent said they were unemployed.
- Thirty-four percent of pride attendees were tourists.
- Seventy percent of the tourists said that Pride 1998 was the main purpose of their visit to San Francisco, and 88 percent said the event played a role in the timing of their visit.
- Forty-two percent of the re-

spondents estimated they'll take two vacations over the next 12 months, 24 percent estimated they'll take one vacation, and 27 percent estimated they'll take three or more vacations. Sixty-three percent of those planning vacations said they intend to visit San Francisco again on one of those trips.

The average amount spent by tourists was \$500, San Franciscans averaged about \$50 in spending during the event.

Sixty-two percent of the respondents said they would be more inclined to use a company because of their sponsorship of the event.

When sponsor loyalty was correlated to sexual identity, the highest scores were lesbians at 78 percent; followed by gay men, 65 percent; bisexuals, 54 percent; transgendered, 53 percent; and heterosexual, 51 percent.

Eighty-four percent of respondents rated the pride celebration as "good to excellent."

Ammiano pointed out that nearly half of the survey respondents said they have a frequent flyer program. "I found it very interesting that 45 percent of the people at pride are members of a frequent flyer program."

"Hello, United. Are you listening?" he asked, referring to the current difficulties between the city and United Airlines over the company refusing to abide by the city's equal benefits ordinance. ▼

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Kerns, employment law expert Sarah Colby, project attorney Claudia Center, as well as experts from San Francisco Public Library's law and public policy program, and the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center of the San Francisco New Main Library.

While Saturday's program mainly emphasizes issues faced by people living with HIV/AIDS or mental illness, concepts to be presented by the panel are useful to those living with most types of disabilities, and all are welcome to attend. The Koret Auditorium is located near the library's Grove and Hyde street entrance. For more information, call ALRP at (415) 248-3969. ▼



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BAY AREA REPORTER

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Opportunistic wasting

The biggest breakthrough against HIV was announced only a few months ago, comparatively speaking, but just about everyone has noticed the change since doctors started prescribing combination therapy for people with AIDS. This week, for instance, we have half a dozen obituaries, which is more than the usual weekly tally over the last year but pales in comparison with how things were in the bad old days before protease inhibitors.

Having suffered through this epidemic for nearly two decades now, we've cheered many incremental breakthroughs that gradually (*maddeningly* so, in fact) extended the life expectancies of PWAs. Step by faltering step, science has chipped away at the opportunistic infections that once killed our friends by the dozens. It was 10 years ago that we first heard a doctor flatly state at an AIDS benefit that there was no longer "any reason" for patients to die of pneumocystis, and he must have been right: even the word, which had become part of everyday writing in gay journalism, is now almost unfamiliar. So much so, honestly, that we had to pause for a second to remember how it's spelled — a lapse in synapse that makes us very happy (unless it's the onset of senility, which will make us *unhappy* but probably not for long).

Tim has also slowed the other big opportunistic killer, Kaposi's sarcoma. It hasn't been conquered, but the signs are all encouraging. MAC, CMV, Epstein-Barr: these viral infections once tore through our community like wildfires through the Everglades, but now they seem manageable, if not curable.

Indeed, it seems only one really virulent opportunistic infection still rages unchecked — *greed* — and officials may be getting a handle on that soon.

As Bob Roehr reports on page one of this issue, three Washington lawmakers are asking for the General Accounting Office to examine AIDS spending, to see if the money allocated is getting to its intended recipi-

ents. Normally we are suspicious of those House members — Dick Armezy famously referred to his gay colleague Barney Frank as "Barney Fag," so we can't imagine we'll ever be good friends with him — but as grandpa used to say, "my enemy's enemy is my friend," and in this case the enemy is unnecessarily squandered money.

This is a topic that some readers may feel we take too seriously, but after all the funerals in the last 18 years, plus the hospital visits, the assisted suicides, and the assisted survivals, we can't act as though misappropriated AIDS money is no big deal. And we invite anyone who has convinced themselves that it doesn't matter to try proofreading the heartbreaking obituaries we get. One afternoon we started crying over the

last line of one obit — "I miss you, my onliest Pooh" — and continued intermittently until midnight. Not because we knew the deceased; that's the point. Once someone is lost to this virus we'll never have the chance to share their favorite jokes and songs and recipes. And if that loss can be attributed to money being unavailable for the necessities, when it is being squandered on frivolities, we think that's as reprehensible as cold-blooded murder.

So although the people spearheading this drive for fiscal accountability aren't our first line defenders, they nevertheless deserve praise for their action. It is an encouraging first step in eradicating one of the last, fatal, scourges to attack people with HIV whose defenses are down. ▼

Editorial

Queer corporate behavior

by Peter Teague

American philanthropy — that sector of our society charged with developing and supporting innovative responses to human need — has treated the cancer of homophobia with denial and silence. The latest study of the matter shows that less than one third of 1 percent of philanthropic giving goes to programs serving lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people and communities. Philanthropy's failure shows up in the struggles of LGBT organizations to develop the basic infrastructure needed to meet the needs of our communities, to effectively demand our full civil and human rights, and to clear away the fear and ignorance that binds our culture to the past.

This state of affairs is changing, and the change is coming from sometimes surprising places. Case in point: corporate giving programs in Northern California. On April 26 the Horizons Foundation, the nation's first LGBT community foundation, received a \$25,000 check from PG&E to support Horizons' Youth and Education program. That check, the fourth in four years, will help Horizons provide key grants to existing and emerging organizations in our community including the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center (LYRIC), Center for Young Women's Development, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, the Harvey Milk Institute, and New Leaf.

PG&E is not alone. Pacific Bell recently partnered with Horizons and Digital Queers to equip LGBT organizations with computer systems. The list of grantees may surprise those who think corporate giving is, by definition, "safe" giving. New technology went to groups including *Ellas En Accion* (serving LGBT Latinos), FTM International (serving the transgender community), the Asian Pacific Lesbian and Bisexual Network, Children of Lesbians and Gays

Everywhere, and Lavender Seniors of the Bay Area.

Likewise Chevron, Levi's, and Wells Fargo have all joined Horizons as we seek to meet the needs of the Bay Area's LGBT communities. These corporate grantmakers have done much more than write checks. They have worked with Horizons' board, staff, and volunteers to understand the issues, to meet with the organizations, and to help us further the cause of LGBT philanthropy. Last year the Horizons Foundation received \$25,000 from the Wells Fargo Foundation to produce a video that introduces Horizons to prospective donors and explains why people give to the foundation. This one grant has allowed us to generate much interest and funding for the groups we help to support.

The cynics will say that this queer corporate behavior is motivated solely by the bottom line. That explanation is too simple, and does not account for the thoughtfulness or vision of the giving. These corporations have not merely written checks to the groups that are most visible or that provide high-profile events to showcase corporate largess. Instead they have worked closely with Horizons and other organizations that know queer communities and that understand the needs created by a society that systematically stigmatizes queer people. These corporations have joined Horizons in its commitment to community-based grantmaking that is recognized for its innovation and insight.

These companies have come to understand that it does not take an act of courage to fund programs for youth, or elders, or the homeless, or to meet the healthcare needs of underserved communities. Foundations and corporations do it all the time. The fact that these particular programs serve queer

people is, in some ways, irrelevant to our corporate partners and in some ways essential; the truth is that you cannot effectively address homelessness, or meet the needs of youth, or people of color, or poor people, or elders, without dealing specifically with issues of gender and sexual orientation.

Is corporate giving enough to meet needs and challenge a homophobic society? Of course not. Instead, those of us in the emerging field of LGBT philanthropy see corporate dollars as a bridge to a future where the doors of "mainstream" foundations and straight donors are open to us. Perhaps most importantly, we see corporate money as support that allows us to develop a culture of giving within and for LGBT communities. This is what Horizons' LGBT Philanthropy Project is all about — educating LGBT donors and prospective donors about the satisfaction and joy of giving back to our own communities.

Horizons' own growth over the past three years is testimony to the changes that are taking place in philanthropy. With support from our donors, a handful of companies, our partners at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, the San Francisco Foundation, the Tides Foundation and the Columbia Foundation, Horizons has seen its budget increase by over 500 percent. We granted our million-dollar in 1998 and our second million in the first quarter of this, our 20th anniversary year!

The next time you pay your phone or utility bill, fill up your tank or use the ATM, take some comfort from the knowledge that you may be helping the Horizons Foundation build a stronger LGBT community. ▼

Guest Opinion

The author is the executive director of the Horizons Foundation.

LETTERS

Knot for them

I read with pride the story (April 1) about the same-sex "wedding" in San Francisco City Hall. I hope to join them some day.

What bothered me, however, was Board President Tom Ammiano's remark that the "domestic partnership registry is for straight as well as gay couples." "Straights" (i.e., heterosexuals) don't need — and should not have — DP status. Why not? They already have what we should have: full marriage under the law.

Furthermore, while I still do not know the full details of DP, isn't it a diluted, watered down version of matrimony? If so, heterosexuals might choose DP (the easier form of commitment) instead of marriage and make the latter ceremony seem old-fashioned. In that case, yes, domestic partnership would threaten marriage.

DP is designed for those — and should be only for those — who cannot legally "tie the knot."

Dr. David B. West
Sunnyvale, CA

Violence and Indiana

I have to disagree that Maureen Orth is "homophobic." ("Killing us softly," April 8.)

Her story embellished as it is, I do not find homophobic. It is simple journalism. Sell a story.

Andrew [Cunanan] was one of us; we have to face it. The facts she presented are true; she can vouch for them. There's a good read, if you are into what happened.

Gary Indiana is not an easy read. His insight, I found far more careful about Andrew. He was, really pretty.

Neither author claims to have known him, both have tried.

I doubt any of us will really know.

What I am trying to say is Orth is not homophobic, and Indiana is not a god on gay psyche.



Robert Hall
San Francisco

Violence and Colorado

A lot of people are asking that question "Why? Why did those two students go on a killing rampage in Colorado?" Perhaps if we look into ourselves we can find that answer. If we were harassed, berated, and toyed with, day in and day out for months or even years, we would get incredibly angry too. Anyone would. As the news reports made it ever so clear, those two gun-wielding students were known to be social outcasts that were constantly harassed for years by their classmates. For the most part, people don't kill without reason. People hurt people who have hurt them.

There are many examples of people harassing others for years and finally ending it with deadly results. An incident that hits closer to home happened right here in San Francisco. A few months ago, a waitress who was known for years to berate and poke fun at the restaurant cook, just pushed the guy too far. One unfortunate day, the waitress berated the cook, the cook flipped out, took out a gun, and shot her dead.

While I am in no way attempting to justify or defend this kind of deadly violence, it is really not difficult to explain why it happens. Kick around anyone hard enough — and long enough — and they will retaliate. People often retaliate with yelling, with fist fights, with passive-aggressive behavior, with lawsuits, and unfortunately with gunfire.

After the Colorado tragedy, many are asking what can be done. While developing better gun laws is a start, perhaps everyone can do their part by simply stopping their own daily ritual of harassing people. Instead of constantly harassing people because they're an ethnic minority, slow, ugly, stupid, short, fat, gay, or simply different, why not find ways to accept them? We can all make a whole lot more friends that way and drive a lot less people to deadly anger.

Nathan C. Knight
San Francisco

Vote for your health

You can vote this month to help improve medical coverage and expand human rights. City and County of San Francisco employees, retirees, and dependents who belong to the Health Service System can vote against James Deignan, an incumbent Health Service Board member. He opposed health plan inclusion for domestic partners and stands in the way of removing exclusions that prohibit coverage for medically necessary sex changing services, or even "related" care. In other words I can get all the estrogen replacement therapy I want, but a transsexual woman can get none.

The law bans discrimination based on gender identity in San Francisco. Human compassion bans it everywhere. Try voting for Ricardo Lopez.

Marie Kochaver
Richmond, CA

Don't compare third world to SFAF

With regard to comments made by Jano Oscherwitz of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), related to the charges of harassment and discrimination at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) in your April 15 paper ("Current, former SFAF workers allege bias"), I must protest. Ms. Oscherwitz seems to equate the alleged intimidation, restrictions on communications, and environment of fear supposed encouraged by SFAF management as "like a third world country." Ms. Oscherwitz seems to be very misinformed; not all supposed "third world countries" (a very broad term, indeed) are run as authoritarian states that wage campaigns of intimidation and fear on their citizens, as she seems to think. Costa Rica, Botswana, and India, just to name a few, are rather vibrant, free, and democratic countries that are hardly members of the "first world" club. I'd ask that Ms. Oscherwitz, and other like her speaking in the press, think more carefully about what they say before applying such a broad brush to all nations and peoples who are not part of the so-called West.

Paul Ortega
San Francisco

Vicious cycle stories

I am writing to you in response to the recent "news" article you published regarding the AIDS Rides. I have several key points of dispute in particular:

1) You state in paragraph seven that "most of the proceeds from these enormous ... events never go to AIDS charities." While there have been a number of big disappointments, I am fairly certain that if you were to collectively add up all the money raised for all the AIDS Rides, you would find that your statement above is untrue. "Most" means greater than 50 percent of all funds. And the successful Rides [produced] out of the offices in San Francisco; Los Angeles; Boston; New York; Washington, D.C.; Minneapolis; and Chicago certainly sent "most" of their funding to AIDS charities.

2) You write off and marginalize the explanations of Pallotta & Associates for the disappointing results of the unsuccessful Rides, as if they were unimportant and meaningless. You further fail to mention even one Ride that may have been even considered moderately successful. I find it particularly interesting that you state that, "Rides, whether east or west coast ... have one consistent pattern: controversy." Yet you fail to discuss the results of any of the California AIDS Rides at all in your article. Last I heard, California was a part of the west coast. Interesting omission on your part, particularly for a paper located in San Francisco.

3) And finally, I resent your description of me, and others who feel the need to "defend" the Rides, as devotees. Rather than being a devotee, I am instead someone who is trying to consider all the facts ... and I appreciate fair and thorough investigative journalism. Unfortunately, your one-sided journalism isn't that. I note that on several occasions (possibly all of them since Ride 2), the California AIDS Ride has offered to have a B.A.R. journalist come along to observe the Ride. And the B.A.R. has declined, each and every time. Doesn't sound like an attempt on your part to be fair and reasoned, to me.

I challenge you to present fair and reasoned articles in the rest of your series: Articles that presents both the difficulties and potentially serious problems of the Rides, while also discussing the successes and positive elements as well. Articles that try to match up complaints about the Rides with those positive comments from the so-called "devotees." You are a newspaper, not some soapbox in which to spout your one-sided feelings and opinions as if they were news.

Can, after all this time, the B.A.R. actually present a reasoned and balanced series on this subject? Given what appears to be your hatred for Dan Pallotta, Pallotta TeamWorks, and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, I have to say I doubt that you can — and hope you can prove me wrong.

Mark Green
Oakland, CA

[Editor's note: The article was part of a series. The second part can be found on page one of this issue.]

Not throwing in the bath towel

It's reassuring to note that the Bay Area Reporter is keeping the public well informed concerning the struggle to reopen bathhouses. The article by Richard Cornwall ("Gays denounce bathhouse ban," April 15) is helping to keep this issue alive. It's unfortunate that the meeting became disorderly.

I feel it is time to activate petitions in order to get this issue put on the ballot and end the controversy.

John H. Wallroff
San Francisco

[Please see the story on page two of this issue.]

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Victims are bad for due process

Kudos to Michael Hardesty [*"No Kluss," Mailstrom, April 8*] for an important observation regarding the infamous death penalty issue and his emphasis about consistency importance.

It was sobering to read the editor's response, which attempted to compare formal legislation to knee-jerk familiarity. The editor's point being that it is okay to change your death penalty viewpoint to a "pro" position after knowing someone who has been killed. Then, ironically, on the following page there was a picture with captions about Amnesty International's meeting with LGBT activists in London. I think I finally understand the expression "strange peaches" and I disagree with your editor's response in this case.

In recent news, the United States is now recognized to have 1.8 million incarcerations, mostly non-violent offenders. Soon, we'll pass up Russia in our pursuit of a big business prison system. So much for fearing Siberia, when we've got Corcoran here. Yup, and embarrassingly enough, we're at the top of the Amnesty International list as human rights abusers. Why? That dreaded death penalty, and heck, throw some police brutality into the mix with three strikes. I can't tell you the pride of old glory I feel when the United States condemns China for human rights abuses and we're at the top of the list as abusers.

The *Boston Globe* recently reported that since 1973, "77 people sentenced to death have been exonerated and freed." This is about 15 percent of the 526 people who have been executed in the same period. This is all great if we're talking corporate handout oversights, but this is, regrettably, human lives. With the right to appeal wrongful convictions diminishing our federal courts, prompted by hysterical fears and overzealous pursuits, the focus solely on victims is usurping due process. Just go back in American history to Salem. This is hardly the vision of our founding forefathers.

Take the case of Anthony Porter (Illinois), who came within two days of being executed when it was discovered that someone else had actually committed the crime that he had been imprisoned for over 17 years! This was last fall and the fifth person in Illinois released for the same reason within three years.

What we have learned is that the death penalty has been used to: 1) execute folks who couldn't afford a great lawyer (ever see a rich man get fried?) 2) execute minorities (mostly black) and 3) execute psychopaths or sociopaths who belong in mental institutions. Killing just one innocent person, in the name of revenge, is too high of a price.

Justice is impartial and objective; families of victims, oftentimes, are not. By my own experience of a brutal loss, I'm here to testify my position has not reversed. In fact, I realize more than ever that as a gay man, it is my duty to continue to promote the progressive, modern ideals and legacy that our brethren and sisters before us fought so hard to provide. Compassion was amongst those ideals. Without it, how can we expect it from others without risking becoming what we once loathed?

Executions won't bring back folks like my friend or Matthew Shepard. Life imprisonment is much cheaper (have you ever totaled up the cost of these appeals?) and much more dignified – you won't have to ditch due process. I hope the good folks of California once again set the trend to reverse this embarrassingly barbaric travesty. Let's do a makeover and join the rest of the modern civilized world at the table.

Michael Rouppet
San Francisco

Klass dismissed

Well, of course it depends on what people change their minds about. If, say, I have a very bad experience with a black person, and I subsequently decide on the basis of empirical experience that all black people are bad, of course that would be a bad conclusion to come to. People can change their minds for better or worse. Not everyone who has had a loved one murdered comes to the same conclusion as a Marc Kluss. There is no uniform gay or straight position on the death penalty. For one of your letter writers to suggest that those of us who oppose the death penalty are on the road to Auschwitz is the biggest of the big lies. And I noticed you didn't feel obliged to respond to that smear. You're entitled to your views on the death penalty, which I am very happy to report is not shared by several leading gay organizations. You're not entitled to put the Nazi label on those of us who do not support the death penalty.

Michael P. Hardesty
Oakland, CA

[May we use it for bullies who blame victims? Our response to your letter was prompted by the way you singled out Klass – a victim – for your smug self-righteous condescension. How easy it must be for you to feel superior to him; enough so that you can mock him, apparently. And of course, it wouldn't be a debate without someone playing the race card right away – even though the Shepard murderers and Gaither butchers are white.]

Typo negative

I was happy to see my letter to Supervisor Beccerril in the April 15 B.A.R. under the heading "Back to school!" Thank you for printing it.

There was, however, a major mangling, which I assume was due to a slip of someone's finger. The third sentence of my letter reads "Although I disagreed with your vote, I would have tried to understand it had you supported it with physics and logic rather than with the virtue of hindsight." The B.A.R. version reads "Although I disagreed with your vote, I would have tried to understand it, had you supported it with and logic."

I can put up (barely) with an added or dropped comma, or even a changed paragraph, and of course I realize you have space limitations. But I feel it would be better to drop a sentence entirely than to nullify its meaning.

Perhaps a disclaimer at the top of the Letters section would be in order. May I suggest the following? "Due to space limitations, mechanical glitches, and/or sloppy editing, these letters do not necessarily appear as their authors intended."

Had such a disclaimer been in place on April 15, my friends wouldn't have been able to accuse me of being an idiot.

Robert Stine
San Francisco

Hocus pocus focus

[This letter was sent to Fr. M. Eady of Our Lady of Lourdes in San Francisco, whose letter to the B.A.R. ("Holier than thou") was printed April 15th.]

Conceptualizing "Church" as you did, (the Catholic in your case) as the mystic body, loving souls, a heart-felt union of you & I in Christ, sounds like you know what the Sisters of PI are all about. Then you should know why celebrating Easter on Castro Street with a condom in the face of spring-born fertility, humanity, and a young-man's-fancy is a much more valid response to the Jesus in us than celebrating Easter at St. Mary's or Our Lady of Lourdes with the cannibal host in the name of sexual repression. It seems you should be joining the Sisters, not disrespecting them.

You know where the word "hoax" comes from, dear father, begat of "hocus pocus," begat of the Latin for "this is my body" (and blood of Christ etc., etc., and abracadabra). Hoax is what you try to perpetrate in the second half of your letter, a sophistic attempt to assign your lack of virility, individuality, and integrity to the Sisters.

Shame on you, and shame on your co-optation of Jesus, your inhumane pope and, as always, on your Catholic Church and its never-ending Holy Roman Imperialization.

Stan I. Maletic
San Francisco

Finding Love on Castro, Easter Sunday

Now that the brouhaha over the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence's Easter party has simmered down, I want to tell you how that day was for me. It started when I read a T-shirt slogan: *Jesus hates me, this I know, for the Christians tell me so*. Our world needs love, sweet love, not hate. I found such love at the Sister's Easter celebration.

Hoping to get some publicity for my new book, *From Pain to Joy – Inspiring Words for Hope and Healing*, I decided to set up a little stand at the Harvey Milk Plaza and give away copies all day. A kind person who lives on the street kept me company for a while. A young man gave me vegetable soup. A confirmed bachelor bought me fudge. My new friend helped me peddle. Members of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus visited with me, as they were selling their CDs next door.

Throughout the day I heard stories of pain and joy by folks from all walks of life.

This day was special for me because I could relate to the person who wore the above mentioned T-shirt. In my case, a Christian told me that I was selfishly going against God's word and being deceived by Satan because of my divorce. In seconds, I felt judged, hurt and invalidated by such words. After 11 hours with the folks on Castro Street, I was energized, happy, loved, accepted, and surely tolerated. *Jesus loves me, this I know, for the people on Castro showed me so.*

Nan Hanson
Berkeley, CA

Wish in one hand, smoke in the other...

I am writing in support of Gilbert Sydney's fine letter of April 8 ("No smoking!"). I am a gay man and frequent bars on Polk Street and wish a smoke free environment. The Castro is overwhelmingly complying, but I live near Polk!

Who in the hell does Wayne Friday think he is to tell police not to enforce the non-smoking law??

I probably will not see this in print, as Jim Robinson's critical letter of Friday was not.

Jon Ellis
San Francisco

POLITICS

State GOP doesn't get it

by Wayne Friday

Wonder what the California state Republican Party learned by its lopsided losses last November to **Gray Davis**, **Cruz Bustamante**, **Barbara Boxer**, and a host of other statewide Democratic winners, while at the same time watching their minority numbers in the state Legislature drop? Apparently not much.

A few weeks ago, the Assembly Republicans in Sacramento unceremoniously dumped their "moderate" Assembly leader, **Rod Pacheco**, and replaced him with one more in tune with the state Republican Party: conservative Assemblyman **Scott Baugh** of Orange County. They elected Pacheco, a moderate Latino, after the GOP nominee for governor (ultra-conservative, anti-abortion, anti-gay then-Attorney General **Dan Lungren**) took a 20-point beating from the lackluster Democrat Davis, and it became obvious that the state Republican Party had badly lost both the hearts and the needed votes of the moderates within their party, who voted in droves for Davis over Lungren. A move in the right direction for the badly beaten, dispirited Republicans? Many thought so, but it didn't last.

Pacheco's pro-choice, moderate approach to California politics immediately got him into trouble with those who really control the state GOP (those represented by the arch-conservative California Republican Assembly) and Pacheco was soon replaced by the pro-life, anti-gay Orange County conservative, Baugh.

California Democrats obviously couldn't be happier; not only can they now look to reapportionment of congressional and state legislative districts, but the Assembly Republicans' move also sends a clear message to California voters that the party is still bent on narrowing its focus to the one issue that divides them more than any other: abortion. Clearly, the California Republican machinery would prefer to stay the minority party that ever give in on the one issue that will forever split their ranks and drive the moderates within the GOP to candidates like Gray Davis, Barbara Boxer, and **Dianne Feinstein**.

Meanwhile, as though to underscore what everyone already knows — that the control of the California Republican Party remains squarely in the hands of the Christian Right and the ultraconservatives — the most conservative of the Republican presidential hopefuls came trooping, hat in hand, to the East Bay city of Newark last weekend to attend the annual meeting of the right wing California Republican Assembly (CRA).

Moderate Republicans complain the group is dragging down the party, but not only are the CRA members the most conservative faction of the state party, they are probably the most active (and bring in big bucks for their favorite candidates) so candidates like **Pat Buchanan**, **Steve Forbes**, **Gary Bauer**, **Alan Keyes**, and New Hampshire Senator **Bob Smith** (all of whom came to kiss ass and, they hope,

gain a blessing) know that they have to show respect if they're to gain a hand in next year's statewide presidential primary.

Former Vice President **Dan Quayle**, **Elizabeth Dole**, and Texas Governor **George W. Bush**, the acknowledged GOP presidential front-runner, sat out the weekend gathering in Newark, but they too, will have to eventually pay their respects and kiss up to the CRA if they hope to score big in the state Republican primary.

Not surprisingly, the main issue at the CRA confab was, again, abortion. California GOP party chairman **John McGraw** reiterated that hopeful Republicans candidates must grab onto the issue to be successful; he told a Catholic newspaper during an interview earlier this year that

abortion was the party's most important issue. While some California Republicans would like to make other issues important, it isn't likely to happen if you listen to one speaker at last weekend's CRA meeting.

Camille Giglio of Walnut Creek, a member of the group and a former president of California Right to Life, told the group that the state Republican Party needs to be even stronger about its anti-abortion position. "We've got to stick to our position and be proud of it," she warned CRA members.

But as the *Marin Independent Journal* put it in an editorial last week, "pursuing that rabid anti-abortion strategy, California Republicans can expect to see their political strength atrophy into more double-digit defeats" in the coming elections.

Politics and people

Willie in a New York frame of mind? The Associated Press carried a story in a string of papers Sunday, about how our very own Mayor **Willie Brown** is accused of emulating NYC's GOP Mayor **Rudy Giuliani** — specifically, Brown's recent actions of taking aim at jaywalkers, ending loitering and public drunkenness in parks, calling for a ban on panhandling along street medians and freeway ramps, etc. The mayor's critics are yelling that he is copying Giuliani's tactics, but Brown says this is only "an aggressive, all-out war on people who do bad things while driving or walking." A Brown spokesperson insists that the mayor's motives are different from Giuliani's; Mayor Brown doesn't have any contact with Mr. Giuliani, says press secretary **Kandise Bender**. (Meanwhile, Giuliani seems pleased about the brouhaha — his spokesperson said the purported copycatting comes as no surprise. "This is a clear example of how Mayor Giuliani's administration's policies and programs transcend politics and are being accepted as a blueprint for governing cities across America," a NYC mayoral spokesperson said. What do I think? I have to go with Willie — we're all getting tired of the homeless problem and, in particular, the increase in the pan-handlers; being hit up by eight of them in one block of Castro on Saturday is a bit tiring.)

Speaking of Mayor Brown, there was a great color photo of Da Mayor in the current issue of **John Kennedy's George** magazine

zine, where he looked more like the Emperor than the city's chief executive (jeweled crown and all). According to *George*, Brown keeps his home number listed — who knew? — and he received a call recently from an irate woman at 2:30 a.m. complaining about a broken streetlight. Unable to get back to sleep the mayor arrived at City Hall early the next morning and told aides, "I don't care what you do, make sure that light is fixed today." Brown then called the constituent at 2:30 the next morning, waking her out of a deep slumber, to ask, "Is your streetlight on?" When the groggy woman replied yes, the mayor reportedly mischievously said to her: "I just want you to know that we believe in service in San Francisco." For all that gets a photo, with the "All Hail King Willie" crown in a national magazine, and a "Well done, Mr. Mayor" from this amused constituent.

Berkeley councilman **Kriss Worthington** called to inform me that his plan to have that city "apologize" to newspaper heiress **Patricia Hearst** for the "inconvenience and harm" she suffered after being kidnapped years ago by the SLA was meant to be a "comic gag" of some sort, and implied that I should have known better than to take it seriously when I reported on it here last week; thanks for the clarification, Mr. Councilman, and I stand corrected. However, the antics of your council and its long-held reputation for the ridiculous, much like our own Board of Supes, gives real pause as to when it is to be taken seriously. I mean, really, Kriss, how's one to know?

This column has predicted from the start that **Hillary Clinton** will eventually decide against a run for the United States Senate from New York and that still holds; she won't run, but the latest inside-the-Beltway gossip has her as a possible — very possible — veep candidate on an **Al Gore** ticket (now, that's interesting).

My bet for Gore's veep? I still pick our very own Senator Feinstein, particularly if, as expected, the GOP nominee (read: George W. Bush) puts a woman on the ticket with him, and, yes, I'd take a small bet it will eventually be Elizabeth Dole on the "Junior" Bush Republican ticket.

Speaking of Elizabeth, and her hubby, you may have heard that Traditional Values Coalition chair the Reverend **Lou Sheldon** is berating those TV ads that **Bob Dole** does for Viagra (he probably dislikes the words "erectile dysfunction" that flash on the screen) but is really pissed that Dole uses the phrase saying the drug could help "millions of men and their partners," rather than "millions of men and their spouses." Ha! "The use of the word 'partner' is problematic," Sheldon says. "It is inconsistent with the common-sense, traditional values of Bob and Elizabeth Dole that Americans know." (Get a life, Rev. I mean *any* kind of a life.)

I know it's a month away, but friends of board President **Tom Ammiano** want you to mark your calendar now for a "retire the deficit" fundraiser for the popular supervisor to be held Tuesday, May 25. It will be at the S.F. Women Artists' Gallery, 370 Hayes Street 5:30–7:30 p.m., and donations of \$35 or more are asked; call Esther Marks at (415) 665-5417 for info.

And how was your week? ▼



Our Man Friday

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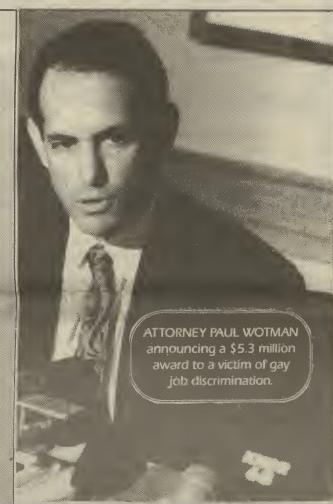
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Photograph by Brian Wong

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Heard and seen, barely

by Nancy Boutilier

Once upon a time two-eared people thought that two-eyed people sounded narrow, while two-eyed people objected to what two-eared people wore. There were two-legged people walking around them, and two-elbowed folks giving a push and a shove, but everyone had a single mouth. Unfortunately, not everybody felt equally comfortable or confident speaking up for themselves.

Animosity reigned in all directions. Two-eyed people, who called themselves Bi-focals, wielded civic power, thanks to long-standing traditions and family histories. Neither elections nor uniforms were necessary for the Bi-focals to police a great deal of social interaction — invitations to parties, business contracts, government appointments and so forth.

Truth be told, Bi-focals made fun of all the others — calling them names and excluding them from important events and decisions. Though Bi-focals called anyone without two eyes a "somer," the worst of the names, "mono," was definitely reserved for the two-eared.

Some two-eared people tried to non-violently challenge their harassers, but their words fell on less than two ears. While dozens of words could make fun of two-ears, there were no words that Bi-focals feared. Two-legged and two-elbowed people rarely stuck up of the two-eared, because to do so diminished them in the eyes of the beautiful and powerful Bi-focals. In the end, the two-eared people remained everyone's easiest, and therefore favorite, target.

It was painful to be two-eared. Every slur was heard in stereo. Some young two-eared people suffered low self-esteem and depression. They lost interest in learning and looked for ways to escape their two-eared lives. Some even stopped listening. One famous two-eared painter even cut off one ear as a gesture of his self-loathing. But a few brave two-eared people started speaking about Ear Esteem. They designed their own flags and donned high hats that perched in steady balance on their two ears. They



began to proclaim their difference with pride.

New words circled around the two-eared people — weird, freaky, and the biggest insult of all, eerie.

Tensions escalated between the two-eyed and the two-eared. There were rumbles that the two-eared people dominated. Dreams of revenge began to enter two-eared sleep...

Sometimes underdogs find a means to fight back for themselves. Sometimes, underdogs find allies who have the means — and perhaps their own motives — to fight in the name of the underdogs. At any rate, in such battles, it's not how many ears, eyes, legs or elbows one has, but how many arms.

Arms. There's something about being armed that allows people to fall out of touch with their own eyes and ears. They lose their senses. Being armed means not having to reason to remain on top or to win the debate or to have the last word.

Each time the phrase "senseless killing" finds its way into print, one wonders where the sensible killings take place. Gay bashers have often raised the "he came on to me" defense, as if an unwanted advance excuses a violent crime. Imagine what would happen to our male population if straight women countered every unwanted sexual advance with murder.

Abusers often have "reasons" for the beatings they inflict. "Dinner wasn't ready." "I don't like Mondays." "Too many Twinkies." Even if there is sense in one's outrage or one's anger, is it (ever?) enough to justify violence?

Yet, our politicians justify violence every day. They have a list of reasons for bombing — and, yes, it too causes deaths. NATO aims to see the refugees back home when the fighting stops. Do they really think anyone will return to the scorched and tragedy-laced earth they once called home? How does a culture undo "ethnic cleansing"? To even imagine it linguistically is too much.

So, not once upon a time, but here and now, we have two violent news stories competing for top billing on the nightly news. We see an arsenal employed to put an end to pain, suffering, intolerance, and bullying — then we see it again in Kosovo.

Our government has repeatedly used weapons to defeat those it can demonize — and politicians often demonize those we can defeat or exploit. Our tax dollars support the "stockpiling of an arsenal, including semiautomatic guns, grenades, and materials to make some 30 bombs." (Oops, sorry, that line was about the two high schoolers, the ones who were reportedly called "geeks," "freaks," "nerds," "inbreeds" and "gay" by classmates.)

The day after Columbine's tragic shootings President Clinton

page 23 ▶



20/20: cops out to abuse

by Jerry Weinstein,
GLAAD publications
manager

In Friday, April 20, television newsmagazine 20/20 presented a segment entitled "True, Blue, Unwanted" in which ABC News correspondent Lynn Sherr investigated the harassment of gay officers. Sherr interviewed two New York gay men, Officers Barrato and Quinn from Queens and Long Island, who have experienced extreme prejudice in the line of duty. After their peers suspected that they were gay, colleagues subjected the officers to verbal and physical assault. Quinn experienced 12 years of harassment, including death threats, and ultimately had a nervous breakdown. When Sherr respectfully questioned why in the face of ongoing mistreatment these officers remained on the job, they submitted that they had every right to pursue a career as policemen.

The piece ended on an optimistic note: while the New York Police Department and Nassau County precinct seem entrenched in anti-gay bias, Sherr pointed out that a number of police departments, including the Boston Police Department, are not only accepting of difference, but they actively recruit gay and lesbian officers. (An interesting note: next month the San Francisco Police Department will set up a booth in the Castro district to actively recruit members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community.)

Once again 20/20 has produced a fine segment revealing the harassment that the lesbian and gay community continues to face. Please thank the producers for their ongoing commitment to issues of sexual orientation in the workplace; in this case law enforcement.

Contact Victor Neufeld, Executive Producer, 20/20, 147 Columbus Avenue, 10th floor, New York, NY 10023-5900, fax: 212.456.2969, e-mail: 2020@abcnews.com.

Michael Moore drives a Sodomobile

Filmmaker Michael Moore has returned to television. Thanks to collaboration between the U.K.'s Channel 4 and Bravo, the auteur of *Roger & Me*, *The Big One*, and Fox's *TV Nation* premiered a weekly television series, *The Awful Truth*, on Sunday, April 11. The first two episodes have not only been scathingly funny, but have been politically savvy as well.

The first show had Moore staging a sexual witch-hunt on Capitol Hill, replete with extras cast in period Puritan garb. In it, Moore confronted House members and senators, including Representatives Bob Barr and Asa Hutchinson, denouncing their hypocrisy.

Moore introduced his second show, on April 18, by saying that "Gay rights are the last frontier for human rights" — and noting that sodomy laws remain on the books in 20 states [currently 19 states]. Moore proceeded to screen a segment in which he was shown driving across the country in the Sodomobile, a pink Winnebago, complete with a dozen lesbians and gay men, stopping in those

states where sodomy is criminal. These freedom riders roadtripped across America, and in the process confronted the Reverend Fred Phelps and his flock on his home turf, (Topeka, Kansas), and then later ambushed them again in Kansas City.

When Moore discovered that Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott had been a cheerleader in college, the Sodomobile made its way to his family estate in Pascagoula, Mississippi, where, outfitted in varsity uniforms with the letter "G" and pom-poms, they cheered until they were ejected from his property. This was the first in an ongoing series of pieces to be produced on the adventures of the Sodomobile.

If you don't already have it, get basic cable so that you can enjoy *The Awful Truth*. Please thank Bravo and Michael Moore for making the struggle for gay civil rights an issue that everyone can support, and for injecting humor in the enterprise.

Contact Francis Burwick, Senior Vice President for Programming, Bravo Network, 1111 Stewart Avenue, Bethpage, NY, 11714. 516.803.4512; and Michael Moore, Executive Producer and Director, *The Awful Truth*, via his website at www.michaelmoore.com or e-mail: awfutv@aol.com.

Please don't kill Homicide

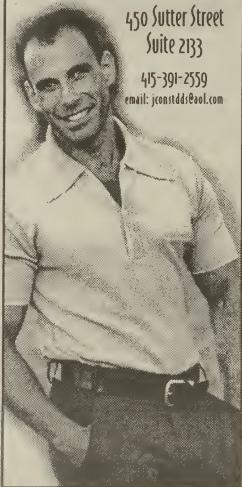
The Hollywood trades are reporting this week that NBC is considering canceling their long running crime drama *Homicide: Life on the Streets*. The critically acclaimed show is currently the

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only network program with a bisexual character, Detective Tim Bayliss. The show's groundbreaking portrayal of Bayliss's orientation, and his fellow officers reactions, recently garnered *Homicide* a 1999 GLAAD Media Award nomination for Outstanding Drama Series.

Please write NBC and ask them to renew this quality, bi-inclusive program.

Contact Mr. Scott Sassa, President, NBC Entertainment, 3000 W. Alameda Ave., Burlingame, CA 94010, e-mail: homicide@nbc.com.

GLAAD promotes fair, accurate, and inclusive representation as a means of challenging discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity. Contact GLAAD by e-mail at glaad@glaad.org or by phone at (415) 861-2244. Report defamation in the media by calling GLAAD's toll-free AlertLine! 1-800-GAY-MEDIA (1-800-429-6334).

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5th Friday (4/30) Special Fundraiser TGIF at GUMP'S, 135 Post Street benefiting the Richmond / Ermet AIDS Foundation. \$20 entry.

2nd Friday (5/14) MAXSouth TGIF at the Sunnyvale Hilton, 1250 Lakeside Dr. near 101 and Lawrence Expressway

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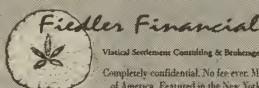
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Carole Fiedler

Sexy thugs, tranny hugs

by Jane Warner
and Ron McGlashan

Wednesday, April 21, 4:30 a.m., corner of O'Farrell and Polk streets: Three fierce and friendly transvestites who are known sex workers in the area approached a man at the intersection, surrounded him, and embraced him in a group hug. The girls said, "How have you been? It's been such a long time since we've seen you!" After the enveloping hug, the girls said, "All right then, we'll see you later." Shortly thereafter the man discovered that his wallet containing \$500 was missing, along with his cellular phone. Now unable to use his trendy tech toy, the man solemnly walked to a phone booth and called 911. The police arrived and filed a stolen property report on his behalf.

Mornings are such a bitch

Thursday, April 22, 9 a.m., corner of O'Farrell and Polk streets: A distraught man walked into Northern Station of the SFPD and told officers that he was approached by a mean man who told him "Hey, bitch, you had better give me that coat, bitch. Give me that coat, bitch, or you're gonna get hurt." The man with the coat refused to take it off and the suspect proceeded to push



Crime & Punishment

him and shoved him to the ground. The suspect then swiped the coat, which held his wallet containing \$300 in cash and various credit cards. No description of the suspect was given to the officers.

Bandit burges bagel joint

Sunday, April 25, 3 p.m., Noah's Bagels, 410 Castro Street: The suspect walked into Noah's Bagels and reached over the counter and into the cash till, grabbing a stack of over \$1,100 in \$20 bills while the clerk was ringing up a transaction. The suspect then ran northbound on Castro Street and down into the Muni underground station. The clerk alerted her manager, who followed the suspect into the Muni station and apprehended him – after chasing him down the tunnel of the station and across the train platforms, hoppedscotch over the rail tracks. Castro beat officers Jim Barron and John Broucet responded to the store manager's call and cuffed the suspect upon the manager's request for a citizen's arrest. Booked for grand theft was 22-year-old Joseph Norman.

Big gun lost in Beaver area

Sunday, April 25, 11 p.m., Tower Records, 2280 Market Street: A suspect entered the bottom floor of Tower Records carrying what looked like a big shotgun covered by a blanket, pointing it at the night clerk, demanding that she

give him all the money. The clerk gave him around \$150 in cash and the suspect fled westbound on Market Street towards Noe. A Tower Records security guard chased the man as he carried his gun, but the suspect was lost near Beaver Street, close to the Castro/Divisadero cross streets. The suspect is described as an adult white male, in his 20s, 6 feet tall with a slim build and slight beard. He was last seen wearing a gray ski cap and a gray sweatshirt.

Hustle bustle

The Tenderloin and Mission districts have seen increased prostitution, according to the SFPD. In the last week, 20 men and women have been arrested on prostitution charges near Polk Street, and 15 women have been arrested near Mission Street. All of the arrested sex workers received citations and were released shortly thereafter.

Door ajar and a lot of black tar

Officers of the SFPD report an ever-increasing amount of black tar heroin dealing in Dolores Park, especially in the park's public restrooms. Apparently, the black tar traffic is handled by groups of men who keep the restroom doors ajar while the drug transactions take place behind them. Another hot spot for heroin trafficking is the park's west side hilltop, where the Muni streetcars stop for passengers. The SFPD encourages the public to use extreme caution in this area, as shootings and other violent activity have been associated with the drug dealing in the area. ▼

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'SF Million Marijuana March' Sat. at Civic Center

by Mark Norby

Demonstrators will gather at San Francisco's Civic Center Plaza this Saturday, May 1 on behalf of the rights of millions of cannabis users worldwide, and to denounce draconian pot laws in this country that hamper Americans' ability to use marijuana as a healing agent. For five hours, beginning at noon, marijuana users and friends are urged to come out of their closets and stand up for their rights. Organizers say the rally will focus on freedom, education, property, work, and reasons to abolish unfair drug urine testing and crime-creating pot laws.

"Millions of responsible Californians are being unjustly criminalized by the current marijuana laws," says California National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) coordinator Dale Gieringer. Like other organizers, he demands that adults have the same right to use marijuana as to use alcohol and tobacco.

March sponsors are calling for the implementation of a medical marijuana distribution system as called for in Proposition 215, the development of industrial hemp, the establishment of Amsterdam-like zones for adult users, and an end to laws against personal use and cultivation. The current situation, they argue, only leads to unnecessary misery.

"We now have a record number of pot prisoners," Gieringer points out. "Taxpayers would be better served if cannabis were taxed and regulated in a legal

market instead of being left in the hands of illicit street dealers."

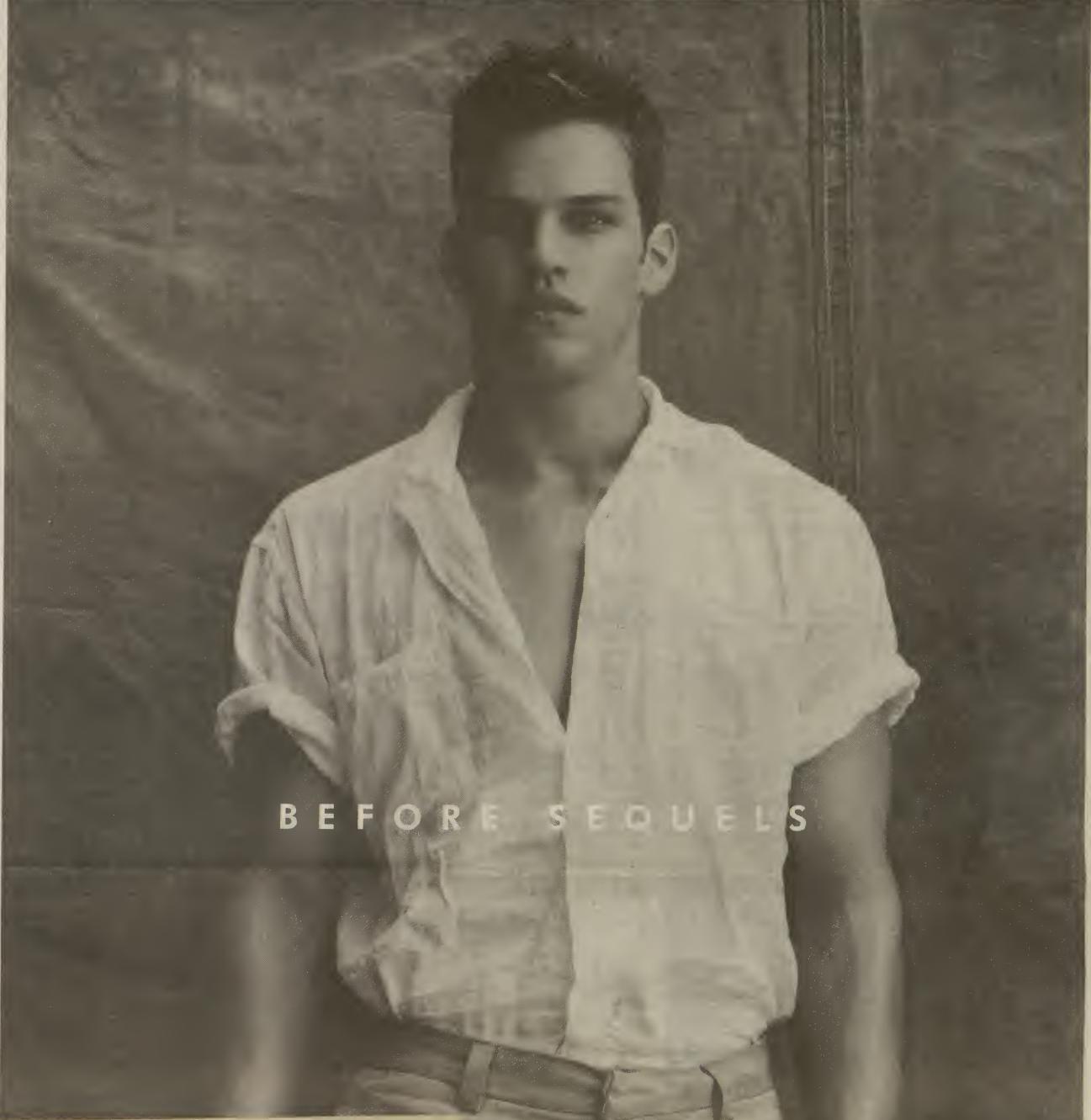
Affiliated May Day demonstrations will be taking place in other cities around the world, including Los Angeles, New York, Vancouver, London, Seattle, Amsterdam, and Auckland.

The SF Million Marijuana March will begin at noon with a rally featuring speakers, music, information booths, and the Human Rights and Drug War Exhibit. The performances of the Toyes, Ten Ton Chicken, Clan Dyken, Fantuzzi, and Ngaio Bealum will add rhythm to the day, and speakers will include Supervisor Tom Ammiano, attorney Tony Serra, Family Council on Drug Awareness spokesman Chris Conrad, and leading cannabis reform activists Julia Carter, Mikki Norris, and Jeff Jones.

At 4:20 p.m., a spot on the clock when all pot smokers are encouraged to light up in unity (an idea first promoted by the smokers of generation X), a pot pride parade will proceed from Civic Center to United Nations Plaza, then turn up Market Street and west to Van Ness, then back to Civic Center. Marchers are encouraged to bring signs, banners, and to wear creative costumes.

"It's time to bring pot out of the closets and into the coffee-houses," says Conrad. ▼

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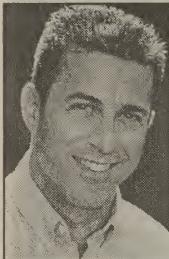
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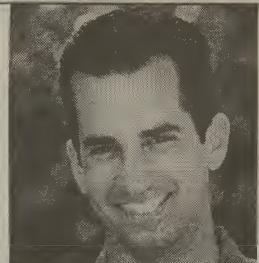
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Bob Roehr

San Franciscans Phyllis Lyon, left, and Del Martin, who have been together 46 years, received the Women of Courage Award at NOW's lesbian rights summit held in Washington D.C. last weekend.

NOW Lesbian Rights Summit held in D.C.

by Bob Roehr

More than 600 lesbians gathered in Washington, D.C. April 23-25 for the Lesbian Rights Summit sponsored by the National Organization for Women (NOW). Amidst the pomp and security of NATO's 50th anniversary, it was certainly the more enjoyable and perhaps the more important meeting of the weekend.

Caucuses reported back to a panel of national leaders at the closing plenary session on Sunday. Their conclusions reflected the diversity of women and men attending the summit.

Two minority reports decried what they saw as omissions from the proceedings. One was "the guise of inclusivity" of transgendered persons, the other was sex.

"Given that we are at the lesbian rights summit, and that the foundation of the struggle for lesbian rights is a struggle for sexual liberation and freedom, it is stunning that there were no workshops on, about, or primarily dealing with sex at this summit," although many were proposed, said Deke Law.

"It marginalizes all who advocate for it and work to create a pro-sex culture in an anti-sex country."

Law called for "an open discussion of and revision of the outdated 19-year-old NOW policy statement on lesbian rights issues" and inclusion of sex workshops at the NOW national conference in July.

Later during the discussion by national leaders, Ruth Harlow, from the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, said that the community needs "to make explicit the connection between sex discrimination, sexual orientation discrimination, and discrimination against transgender people on gender-based issues."

"The best kept secret of the queer movement is that it is led by lesbian feminists," said Kerry Lobel, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). "And the best kept secret of the feminist movement is that it is led by queers."

She believes the queer movement is ahead "on pushing the limits of gender identity and gender expression ... the feminist

movement has to catch up." She urged greater acknowledgment of bisexuality.

"We don't have a good sense of history and passing on," said Willa Taylor, chair of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum. "And we continually reinvent the wheel because we don't know how it was done to begin with." She was pleased to see many generations participating in the summit.

Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), maintained, "We have ceded spirituality" to the far right. "I think it has hurt us a great deal in the movement."

The summit concluded with a march around the Capitol building and rally in front of the Supreme Court. Its primary focus was expansion of federal hate crimes legislation to include lesbians, gays, and the disabled. The Senate held a hearing on that bill April 28.

Phyl & Del-philia freedom

The sentimental high point of the weekend was the presentation of the Women of Courage Award to Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon on Friday night. The San Francisco couple has been together for 46 years, founded the first lesbian organization (the Daughters of Bilitis) in 1955, and have been active in NOW.

"We're flabbergasted" by the honor, Lyon said. Their recounting of landmark events in lesbian history was marked by a comic repartee that would have done George Burns and Gracie Allen proud. "One of these days we're going to start doing stand-up," she quipped.

Martin recalled how their "couple membership" to NOW was rejected in 1967, saying, "We were told that lesbians would destroy the organization."

At their first meeting of the San Francisco chapter, "Heterosexual women vented their anger against men so vehemently and so visibly that we found ourselves defending the men," Martin said, her voice rising in mock amazement. "And we were suppose to be the man-haters."

"But then, we didn't have to live with them."

She urged the audience "to unite as never before and face the grip that the extreme right wing

holds over our country."

The Tammy Show

"She's good," said NOW President Patricia Ireland in introducing Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin). Ireland repeated it again, slowly and with emphasis, "She is good."

Ireland explained further that Baldwin "takes something from her life and uses it to help people understand issues. She talks about her family, she talks about herself, and in that way, I think, brings the notion of Congress to people in a way that they can see how it touches their lives."

Baldwin spoke of her own coming out, and the anger she felt "because in all of my years at one of the finest sets of public schools and one of the best colleges in this nation, no one had ever uttered the word gay or lesbian in my classroom."

"I had gone through a public education system, as most of my generation had, that had ignored the contributions of gays and lesbians."

She decided, at 24, that she could be both out as a lesbian and run for public office. "It was one of the most freeing things that I've ever done."

The public sees a world of politicians with their finger to the wind of public opinion, Baldwin said. "By being out, we clearly demonstrate our integrity. We prove that we make decisions based on what is right and what is honest. We shatter the cynicism that people hold of politicians."

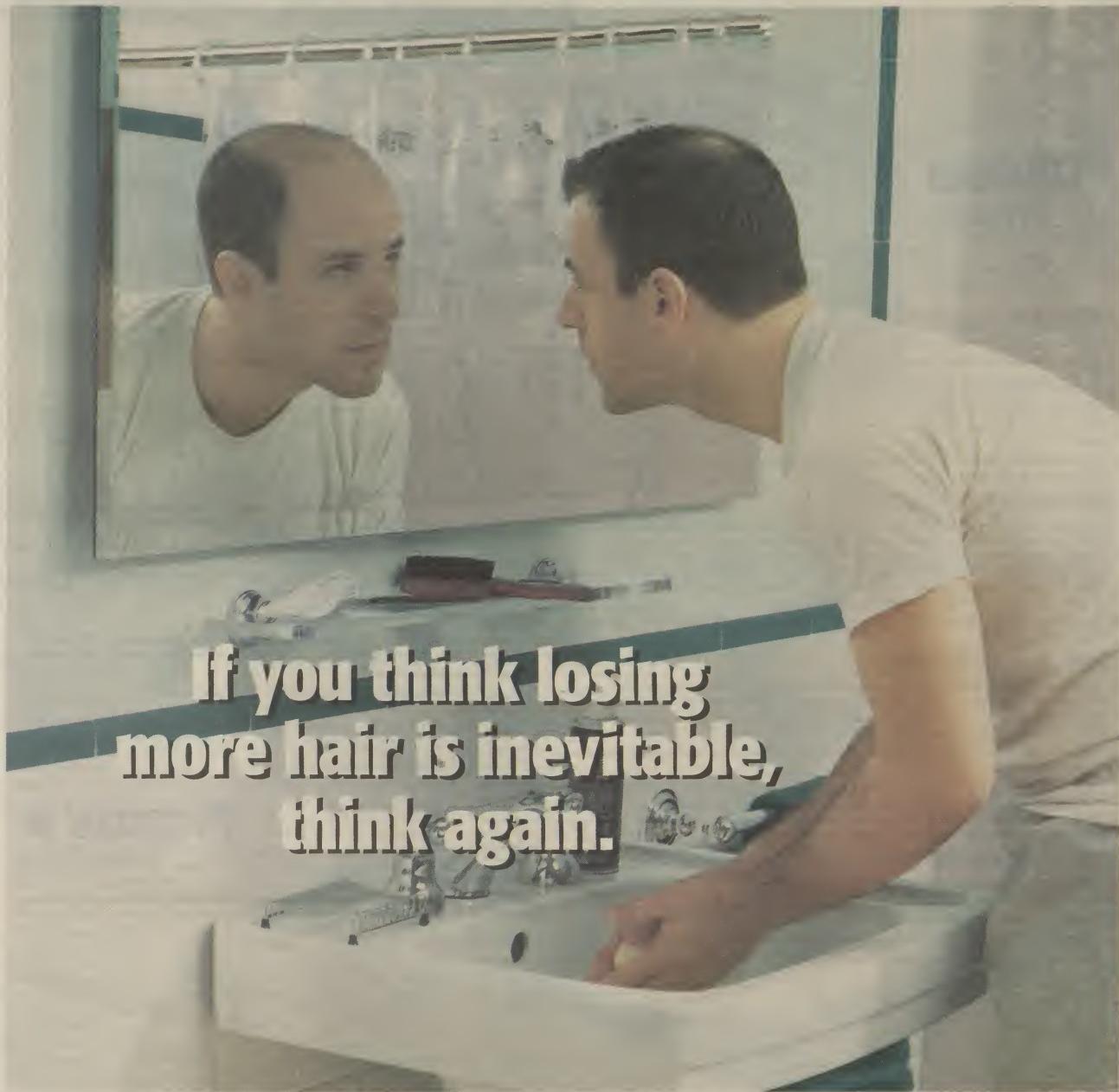
She told the audience, "There are two things that keep us oppressed: them, and us."

"We are half of the equation. There will not be a magic day when we wake up and it is suddenly okay to express ourselves publicly. We make that day."

"So if you dream of a world in which you can put your partner's photograph on your desk at work, then put her photo on your desk and you will live in such a world."

"If you dream of a world where you walk down the street holding your lover's hand, then hold her hand and you will live in such a world."

"If you dream of a world where there are more openly gay and lesbian people in public office, then run for office and you will live in such a world." ▼



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You may need to take PROPECIA daily for three months or more to see visible results. PROPECIA may not regrow all your hair. And if you stop using this product, you will gradually lose the hair you have gained. There is not sufficient evidence that PROPECIA works for recession at the temporal areas. If you haven't seen results after 12 months of using PROPECIA, further treatment is unlikely to be of benefit.

Like all prescription products, PROPECIA may cause side effects. A very small number of men experienced certain side effects, such as: less desire for sex, difficulty in achieving an erection, and a decrease in the amount of semen. Each of these side effects occurred in less than 2% of men. These side effects were reversible and went away in men who stopped taking PROPECIA. They also disappeared in most men (58%) who continued taking PROPECIA.

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What is PROPECIA used for?

PROPECIA is used for the treatment of male pattern hair loss on the vertex and the anterior mid-scalp area.

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What is male pattern hair loss?

Male pattern hair loss is a common condition in which men experience thinning of the hair on the scalp. Often, this results in a receding hairline and/or balding on the top of the head. These changes typically begin gradually in men in their 20s.

Doctors believe male pattern hair loss is due to heredity and is dependent on hormonal effects. Doctors refer to this type of hair loss as androgenetic alopecia.

Results of clinical studies:

For 12 months, doctors studied over 1800 men aged 18 to 41 with mild to moderate amounts of ongoing hair loss. All men, whether receiving PROPECIA or placebo (a pill containing no medication) were given a medicated shampoo (Neutrogena T/Gel™ Shampoo). Of these men, approximately 1200 with hair loss at the top of the head were studied for an additional 12 months. In general, men who took PROPECIA maintained or increased the number of visible scalp hairs and noticed improvement in their hair in the first year, with the effect maintained in the second year. Hair counts in men who did not take PROPECIA continued to decrease.

In one study, patients were questioned on the growth of body hair. PROPECIA did not appear to affect hair in places other than the scalp.

Will PROPECIA work for me?

For most men, PROPECIA increases the number of scalp hairs, helping to fill in thin or balding areas of the scalp. Men taking PROPECIA noted a slowing of hair loss during two years of use. Although results will vary, generally you will not be able to grow back all of the hair you have lost. There is not sufficient evidence that PROPECIA works in the treatment of receding hairline in the temporal area on both sides of the head.

Male pattern hair loss occurs gradually over time. On average, healthy hair grows only about half an inch each month. Therefore, it will take time to see any effect.

You may need to take PROPECIA daily for three months or more before you see a benefit from taking PROPECIA. PROPECIA can only work over the long term if you continue taking it. If the drug has not worked for you in twelve months, further treatment is unlikely to be of benefit. If you stop taking PROPECIA, you will likely lose the hair you have gained within 12 months of stopping treatment. You should discuss this with your doctor.

How should I take PROPECIA?

Follow your doctor's instructions.

- Take one tablet by mouth each day.
- You may take PROPECIA with or without food.
- If you forget to take PROPECIA, do not take an extra tablet. Just take the next tablet as usual.

PROPECIA will not work faster or better if you take it more than once a day.

Who should NOT take PROPECIA?

- PROPECIA is for the treatment of male pattern hair loss in MEN ONLY and should not be taken by women or children.
- Anyone allergic to any of the ingredients.

A warning about PROPECIA and pregnancy.

- Women who are or may potentially be pregnant:
 - must not use PROPECIA
 - should not handle crushed or broken tablets of PROPECIA.

If a woman who is pregnant with a male baby absorbs the active ingredient in PROPECIA, either by swallowing or through the skin, it may cause abnormalities of a male baby's sex organs. If a woman who is pregnant comes into contact with the active ingredient in PROPECIA, a doctor should be consulted. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

What are the possible side effects of PROPECIA?

Like all prescription products, PROPECIA may cause side effects. In clinical studies, side effects from PROPECIA were uncommon and did not affect most men. A small number of men experienced certain sexual side effects. These men reported one or more of the following: less desire for sex; difficulty in achieving an erection; and, a decrease in the amount of semen. Each of these side effects occurred in less than 2% of men. These side effects went away in men who stopped taking PROPECIA. They also disappeared in most men who continued taking PROPECIA.

The active ingredient in PROPECIA is also used by older men at a five-times higher dose to treat enlargement of the prostate. Some of these men reported other side effects, including problems with ejaculation, breast swelling and/or tenderness and allergic reactions such as lip swelling and rash. In clinical studies with PROPECIA, these side effects occurred as often in men taking placebo as in those taking PROPECIA.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual effects.

- PROPECIA can affect a blood test called PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen) for the screening of prostate cancer.
- If you have a PSA test done, you should tell your doctor that you are taking PROPECIA.

Storage and handling:

Keep PROPECIA in the original container and keep the container closed. Store it in a dry place at room temperature. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

Do not give your PROPECIA tablets to anyone else. It has been prescribed only for you.

Keep PROPECIA and all medications out of the reach of children.

THIS LEAFLET PROVIDES A SUMMARY OF INFORMATION ABOUT PROPECIA. IF AFTER READING THIS LEAFLET YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR ARE NOT SURE ABOUT ANYTHING, ASK YOUR DOCTOR.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

AIDS Grove

◀ page 1

our urban environment through the planting of trees. National Arbor Day is the perfect occasion to launch such an effort."

Expensive work needed

In a related matter, Weyand has announced a major new funding initiative, the Ensure Remembrance Campaign; proceeds will enable the grove to make much-needed landscaping and other required improvements. Plans for a permanent endowment are in the works as well, to pay for a gardener's salary and annual maintenance supplies, to further the grove's goal to become self-supporting.

"Our long-term goal is to raise \$1.5 million to establish the endowment," Weyand stated. "So far, we've raised about \$600,000, a wonderful start, but still far short of what we need." Donations are

tax-deductible and can be made in any amount.

Another way of giving is for people to take advantage of the grove's pledge program; for \$50 per month, people can join the Circle of Friends. With a gift of \$1,000, a person's name will be permanently inscribed in the flagstone terrace at the grove's Dogwood Crescent.

The grove is in immediate need of improvements to correct a serious drainage problem and rebuild paths so that they meet federal and state codes for disability access. "If you've visited the grove lately, you may have noticed that the meadow has been flooding at times throughout the rainy season due to its low elevation," Weyand pointed out.

A large pump and drainage tank set in sand under the meadow are supposed to take care of the flooding. But after years of use, oily silt has built up on the sand, and overflow from the tank can't seep through the sand to the un-

derground. The site needs to be excavated, Weyand explained, to clean up the silt, and work on the meadow's topsoil to break it up and enable it to drain properly. Several woodchip paths need to be resurfaced to make them more accessible to people in wheelchairs. Weyand said that while the city may chip in part of the funds for the expensive maintenance work, the grove is expected to have to pay approximately \$60,000.

The grove was built entirely by private funding, and volunteers who participate in the popular monthly Saturday workdays help maintain the site by weeding and planting. Other donors have contributed financially over the years and Weyand thanked those who have helped create the first living memorial to those lost to AIDS and in support of people living with HIV/AIDS. The grove strives to provide a positive focus for grief and promote peace of heart, a means for the community to recognize the enormity of the AIDS crisis, a place for remembrance and renewal; and to restore through community participation and public-private partnership a historic site of beauty in Golden Gate Park.

Friends of the Urban Forest promotes a larger, healthier urban forest through community planning, maintenance, education, and advocacy. ▼

concerning use of illegal drugs in AIDS-funded housing.

Petrelis has spearheaded the Accountability Project, which gathers information on AIDS services providers. He also was in contact with Coburn's staff and helped shape the questions sent to GAO.

Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-California), a leading AIDS advocate in Congress, noted, "There are numerous oversight and review procedures in place for Ryan White CARE and other programs." But she had "no objection" to the study.

Coburn reacted to the charge of political motivation by phoning Zingale the next morning. The congressman said he was willing to consider any additional issues Zingale might have, and may write a supplemental letter to GAO.

Impact

The GAO has a fine reputation for conducting impartial studies, so there is little concern that the process will be politicized. It delivered a similar, but more limited, review of Ryan White programs in 1995 when that bill was up for its first renewal.

"I actually think that we are going to get some answers that are useful, because GAO are smart people," said Rose. He believes that GAO will "find bad bookkeeping in some agencies. They are going to find a couple of examples of misappropriation of funds, it's inevitable. It happens with every kind of government program. But I've been pretty close to the ground with almost every level of AIDS services provision and I just don't see widespread abuse."

Pelosi is "convinced that any objective and thorough review of federally funded AIDS programs will find that the vast majority of programs are high quality, cost effective, and essential to the appropriate care of thousands of people with HIV."

Provision of care seldom has been a contentious issue. The historically divisive issues have been those of prevention activities such as needle exchange, names reporting, condom distribution, what to teach, when and where to teach it.

Anderson reminded people that "prevention operates without the kind of legislative authority that Ryan White does." That is unlikely to change, given the ideological chasm that separates Congress on those issues.

"There is great bipartisan support for the Ryan White CARE Act," which funds medical services, said Stachelberg. "It will be reauthorized." ▼

Feds audit

◀ page 1

to those suffering with AIDS/HIV to ensure that the nearly \$9 billion directed to federal AIDS programs is spent for purposes for which it is intended," Coburn said in a statement released by his office.

Jim Driscoll, an AIDS lobbyist with Log Cabin Republicans, said, "The idea has been bouncing around for over a year." Log Cabin tried to find a friendly sponsor to shape the audit request.

Senator Jim Jeffords (R-Vermont) is chairman of the Labor and Human Resources Committee and a strong friend of both gay and AIDS interests. But his office "was not very enthusiastic about Ryan White reauthorization," according to Driscoll.

Other potential sponsors were equally reticent. The initiative fell to Coburn as the one with "the most genuine interest in reauthorization," Driscoll said.

Coburn did not pursue suggestions to get Democratic members to join in signing a bipartisan letter. Nor did Democrats, who were aware of the proposal over its several weeks of gestation, proactively seek to join the process and help shape the request.

A tangential issue fueling Capitol machinations is an ongoing trial in Puerto Rico where three administrators are charged with diverting \$2 million in federal AIDS funds to political purposes. The alleged beneficiary, Governor Pedro Rossello, heads up Al Gore's presidential campaign in Puerto Rico.

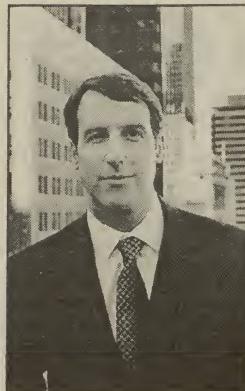
Reactions

"This call for an audit is nothing less than a politically motivated attempt to raise doubts about the fight against AIDS," charged Daniel Zingale, executive director of the AIDS Action Council.

It was a common response from AIDS lobbyists in Washington. "These are not men who I would put on a primary list as being big time AIDS advocates," said Gary Rose, a member of the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) Working Group.

Only after attacking the messenger would they admit that the message of an audit could be "a useful exercise," as the Human Rights Campaign's (HRC) political director Winnie Stachelberg put it. "I think it is important to know how federal dollars are spent."

San Francisco activist Michael Petrelis was "very happy" with news of the audit request, though he was "troubled" by a question



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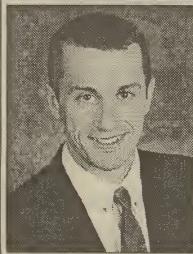
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Catholics deal with 'gay issue' at Santa Clara University

by Piper Cook

Although it has decades of nuanced theology behind it, the Catholic Church's policy on homosexuality can be summed up with a pithy cliché: "Hate the sin but love the sinner." The Jesuits who run Santa Clara University, the first college in California, are finding that it's not such an easy policy to follow.

Even as the school reaches out by giving official sanction to a gay and lesbian club on campus, staff and faculty members are grumbling about the administration's refusal to offer domestic partner benefits to queer couples.

"All [the SCU administration] has to do is say yes, you are worthy; your family is worthy; and we will protect you," says Cookie Ridolfi, a law professor who is a lesbian. "That is what I demand."

Liz Whitmore, assistant director of human resources, explains, "The reason SCU does not provide domestic partner benefits is because the Catholic Bishops are opposed to it." Many gay and lesbian faculty and staff don't even fight for domestic partner benefits because they are afraid.

"I asked for benefits," says Ed Schaefer, SCU associate professor

of mathematics. "However, I quickly dropped the subject because I was up for tenure and was afraid my pushing the issue might jeopardize my position."

What Schaefer finds frustrating is that SCU extends benefits to faculty and staff members who weren't married in a church, as well as to atheists.

Santa Clara certainly isn't alone. There are 124 colleges and universities that provide domestic partner benefits, but none of them is Catholic.

Welcome to the club

Yet Santa Clara has been out in front on gay rights in another area. Santa Clara was the first Jesuit school in the country to charter a gay and lesbian club. The Gay and Lesbian (& Bisexual) Alliance, known as GALA, is dedicated to providing emotional and social support to the SCU bisexual, gay, and lesbian community, and to further contribute information to the entire SCU community concerning bisexual, gay, and lesbian issues. GALA is like any other chartered club or fraternity, except that it maintains confidentiality for students who request it.

"GALA has made the university a safe place to attend for those students who have had a tough time dealing with their sexual orientation or who have been harassed because of it," says GALA member Kelli Swader, a senior. "The primary goal of the club is to be here for the students who need us."

As many as 15 students attend GALA's weekly meetings, according to Sara Sperling, an assistant director at SCU's Center for Student Leadership who advises GALA. Being gay in college is very different now than it was 20 to 30 years ago, says the 27-year-old Sperling, who came out when she was 21. "A person's college years often coincides with the time in people's lives when they are first willing to come out. And GALA has been vital for some SCU students when they reach that stage."

"At first I was afraid to come out because I didn't know how people [other students] would

react," says a 21-year-old senior who chose not to use her name. "I didn't want people, especially other girls, to shy away from me because now they would think I'd try to pick up on them. But I had to do it. I had to come out for myself. One of the most important issues facing gay and lesbian students is a lack of campus awareness."

"We've been kind of invisible lately," says Swader, sitting patiently in Benson Memorial Student Center at a table promoting GALA. "A lot of students don't even know there is such a group on campus."

Adds GALA member Angela Westbrook, "There has been a kind of general attitude among the students that we're not here. People try and pretend that they don't see us and we don't exist," but we do exist and we are here."

It's a feeling shared by some faculty members.

"I don't think some departments can handle someone being openly or publicly gay," says a lesbian faculty member who asked not to be identified. She has been with the same partner nearly 15 years. "However, it would be a good challenge for this university, being that they want a tolerant place, an open community. This would definitely be a true test."

Class distinctions

These issues come up often in Professor Jack Bonsor's course, Homosexuality and Catholic Theology. Introduced in the spring quarter last year, it is the university's first religious studies course to address the issues of homosexuality. Homosexuality is a very current ethical issue in Catholic circles right now, says Santa Clara Religious Studies Department Chair Denise Carmody. "It is a topic, we feel, the students here at Santa Clara are interested in."

Bonsor's class is based primarily on scripture and St. Thomas Aquinas's natural law argument. According to Aquinas, homosexual acts contradict "human nature." Human beings are required to act in conformity with their nature, so all homosexual acts are

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Stanford conference to focus on anti-gay violence, fighting back

by Mark Norby

The old wooden firehouse at Stanford University no longer houses a couple of brave firemen and their red truck. To outsiders, the moniker "Fire House" still emblazoned on the facade would indicate an architectural relic of the university's early days. But today it is the center of fire for Stanford's queer students, transformed to its present state in the early 1980s. It is home to big ideas, where Stanford's bisexual, gay, lesbian, transgender, and queer community (BGLAD) manages to organize great queer minds for an annual conference dedicated to advancing queer interests.

Beginning this Monday, May 3, BGLAD will host a conference entitled "Fighting back: eradicating violence against our community." The two-week conference boasts queer intellectuals, entertainers, athletes, and out-and-proud students. Researchers and activists will meet at Stanford until May 16 to present the latest information and plans for action in addressing the rising tide of anti-queer violence, and academic departments of Stanford will offer lectures and events that will



Author and lawyer Andrew Vachas

further illuminate the depth of violence and the extent of its growth that has infected American society.

Organizers hope that on Friday, May 14 most of the campus, whether gay or straight, will sport round buttons with the bright pink triangle, symbolizing pansexual unity and queer identity.

Coinciding with Stanford's queer awareness conference, author, lawyer, and gay rights advocate Andrew Vachas will speak May 14. Vachas is a recognized expert on the sociology of interpersonal violence, including bashing crimes, and how to fight them. He has authored a new book on gay bashing, *Choice of Evil*, that will be published by Knopf Publishing in May.

Vachas sees it, "the statement that all hate is the same hate is no mere canard. Every study analyzing gay-bashing assaults shows that these violent crimes are disproportionately directed toward women, racial, and ethnic minority members of the queer community. If we are to overcome those who attack us, we must recognize and expose the multiple roots of the hatred that drives our attackers."

Vachas's lecture is open to the public and general admission is \$10, or \$3 with a student ID. Additional information on the conference and ticket reservations are available by calling (650) 326-8067 or e-mailing Stanford-BGLAD@iname.com.

Santa Clara

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objectively wrong, according to Aquinas.

Bonsor teaches the class very liberally and is open to any questions, says student Mark Kupanoff. "We're learning more about the ways in which the church, seemingly, has failed in its views of homosexuality."

Senior Sonia Leal, another student enrolled in the course, isn't as pleased with the format.

"We don't get to discuss our feelings or questions on homosexuality and how it is dealt with in our society," Leal says. "All we do is learn about what the Catholic Church thinks and says is right."

But Bonsor points out it's a the-

ology class based on the church's teaching, not a free-for-all on the subject of homosexuality.

The students have a lot of opinions and feelings on homosexuality and the issues surrounding it, but they don't think about them critically, says Bonsor, leaning back with his hands folded firmly in his lap. "I want to emphasize how one thinks critically about something. I want them to be able to make a sound ethical argument. Bonsor believes that part of being Catholic is taking the church's teaching seriously." He hopes this class will help his students to think theologically and learn more about Christian tradition. In his opinion, helping them think critically and being able to enter into serious thinking and discourse is the most valuable lesson he can teach them. ▼

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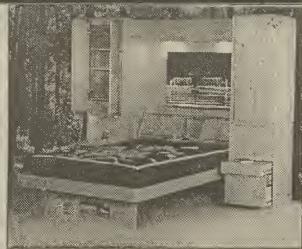
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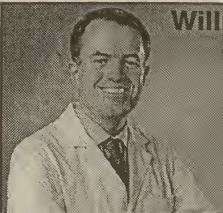
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Behavior research comes of age

Opportunity for sexually active gay/bi men

by Bill Snow, ACT UP/
Golden Gate Writers Pool

The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) is now recruiting sexually active men who have sex with men for an unusual and important study, called Explore. The goal is to determine if intensive, personalized, one-on-one counseling about behavior and risk can significantly reduce the number of new HIV infections.

To understand the purpose of this trial, it is necessary to step back and look at the history of behavior change activities and research. Hang in here, because the study has real benefits (for researchers, and for participants, too) that we'll get to shortly.

In its beginning, the AIDS epidemic itself was controversial, and it was all anyone could manage just to get out the message of safer sex. *It works; it's okay, if not perfect; it can be satisfying; it saves lives.*

Next came the logistics: condoms, clean needles, and how to use them, all in the urgent terrifying context of sickness and death (which probably did way more to change people's behavior than the education they were exposed to).

Thus began a whole industry

of HIV prevention organizations, methods, and research, which has continued unabated for years. Community-based organizations developed programs by trial and error, and researchers tried to test them or – more commonly – developed and tested their own. The rate of new HIV infections (known as incidence or seroincidence) went down.

Happily, as time wore on, sickness and death receded because infected people died or did better under treatment, but new men entered the community, people got tired of safety, and risk-taking went underground. There were plenty of theories why, all boiling

Last year an intensive intervention was designed to take a shot at the best we could do, and see if it actually prevents infections. And, after a very successful pilot, the Explore study is now open and recruiting 4,350 men in six cities to a randomized controlled trial of an intensive, individualized counseling intervention to measure its effect against a control group in reducing seroincidence. This is seen as the "maximum practical dose" of prevention counseling, a way to prove or disprove the concept that a behavioral intervention really can reduce infection rates. San Francisco will recruit over 600 men from the Bay Area.

Explore Clinical Coordinator Mike Ahern says what they're doing is "talking about much more than information and training here. We're talking about providing sexually active men with 12 weeks of structured and individualized one-on-one counseling to understand and cope with their own risk tendencies. In 10 sessions you will work with a trained counselor to address your specific sexual and drug use issues, what you like, who you like, what risks you may have taken, and the types of risks you wish to avoid. Sessions may be conducted at the study site, over the phone, or at an agreed-upon location away from the study site. The counselors are dedicated and experienced, and the intervention should help you know yourself better and make better decisions."

Hence the name, "Explore" is what participants randomly selected for the treatment arm do: they explore in detail their definition of what they consider acceptable risk – their personal standard of safer sex – for themselves. What counselors are finding so far is that people sometimes have complex definitions that depend on multiple factors: how much they trust their partner, whether or not they ejaculate, how mindful they are of the risk they are taking. Trust seems to be a richly important value to men in their safer sex decisions, and affects their risk level. Trust often means I am connected to you and you to me and that can get reflected in what I am willing to do with you. Being under the influence of drugs or al-

next page ►

ACT UP

ACT UP

UCSF RESEARCHERS at San Francisco General Hospital are recruiting HIV POSITIVE PEOPLE for clinical trials:

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ACTION UPDATE

Let's Explore!

HIV counseling is an important part of HIV prevention efforts around the country. As the epidemic continues, we need to continue to find new ways to help people protect themselves and to measure and share what we really accomplish. By taking part in the Explore study described above, you can help researchers find out whether this new strategy could help people like yourself in the future. You may also benefit personally from counseling and/or HIV and STD testing, and there is some compensation for regular study visits (but not for the extra 10 sessions of counseling).

If you're interested in joining the study, call DPH at (415) 554-9068, or e-mail to research@dph.sf.ca.us. For information about joining the Community Advisory Board that advises this trial call (415) 554-9065 or e-mail joe_wright@dph.sf.ca.us. ▼

OBITUARIES

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're resubmitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

James E. Hocott

January 12, 1930 — April 1, 1999



James E. Hocott, affectionately known by many as "Uncle Jim," after a short illness with cancer, died in the Kaiser Foundation Hospital on April 1. Jim moved to San Francisco from Alexandria, Virginia approximately five years ago.

Hundreds of friends will remember Jim for his robust nature, his unselfish and caring attitude, and his love for travel. He had recently returned from trips to Puerto Rico and Mexico and was planning a trip to Hawaii. Many will also remember him from conversations during his almost daily lunches in Castro area restaurants.

He was born in Omaha, Nebraska, and graduated from Creighton University. While serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, he received a Purple Heart and Bronze Star medals. He also served as a military advisor in Vietnam.

Uncle Jim was cremated, and his remains will be transported to Washington, D.C. A funeral service will be held in that area. No local memorial service is being planned.

Franklin Hiles

October 27, 1961 — March 8, 1999



Frank's life slipped away on Monday March 8. He was 37. At his 20th birthday party he was told he had AIDS and only six months to live. Over the next 17 years, AIDS both forged and challenged his entire adult life. Even so, he had been around the world four times, worked as a draftsman on the plans for NYC's twin towers, survived being homeless one winter on the streets of NYC, recovered from numerous bouts of pneumonia, sowed more hemp than Johnny Appleseed did trees, and touched more lives than will ever be known.

Music was his passion, his savior,

and his addiction. He had worked in NY as a DJ, and even played at NYC's famed club "the Saint." By the time he reached SF, neuropathy had robbed him of the free use of his legs. Still, music would lift him up and he would dance and spin his way to Nirvana where he was once again healthy and whole.

Frank's passion for life was intense. To those around him it was both inspiring and infectious. He was dearly missed by all who knew him. Good journey my friend, until our paths cross again.

Larry D. Marr

July 1, 1948 — April 16, 1999



Larry died quietly and peacefully in his sleep, at home, on April 16, 1999. His valiant 12-year fight against AIDS took its toll, and ended due to acute liver failure.

Larry was born on July 1, 1948 in Alamogordo, New Mexico. He graduated from New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, New Mexico, in 1970 and moved to San Francisco in 1971. He was last employed by General Reinsurance Company where he was an Administrative Manager. Larry lived fully, with unbridled zest, love, and his endearing, penetrating wit.

Larry is survived by his partner Peter Di Giulio, his dear friends Deanna Hernandez (SF), Ellen Dowling (NM), Tracy Cooper-Tuckman (OH); his "nephews" Alex and Clarke Cooper; and numerous friends he made over the years, with whom he stayed in loving contact.

A celebration of Larry's life will be held on June 5, 1999 at his home. His ashes will be scattered in the Organ Mountains of New Mexico that he so loved.

Donations can be made in Larry's name, to inscribe his name in stone, to the National AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park, 856 Stanyan St. San Francisco, CA 94117, or to AIDS Benefit Counselors, 973 Market St. 6th floor, San Francisco, CA 94103.

Words do not do justice to the love Larry gave to us who were privileged to know him.

David Lee "Granny" Matthias

November 15, 1929 — March 30, 1999



Friends of David Lee Matthias regretfully announce that he passed away at home on March 30, 1999. David was loved by many in this community not only because he cared for them in his profession as a nurse, but also because he was able to empathize and cheer them with his great sense of humor and imitable positive outlook on life, which earned him the nickname "Granny."

Granny was born in Winslow, Arizona and served in the U.S. Navy. Diagnosed with AIDS in the early 1980s, he nonetheless managed to live a productive and fulfilling life, attending and also speaking at local AIDS conferences. He

was a founding member of Dignity.

Those who remember him at the Ambassador Hotel (and later in the Mission) will recall the huge number of teddy bears he collected. These were memorials of AIDS victims, many of whom he knew and cared for. An inventive animal lover, he kept four cats (his babies) in his small quarters. He was first and foremost a survivor and inspired others to be as well. He will be sorely missed.

A memorial will be given by some of Granny's friends at Network Ministries, 366 Eddy Street, at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 17, 1999.

Steven P. Coorey

October 5, 1957 — March 26, 1999



San Francisco was Steven's home from 1985 through 1994. He reluctantly left San Francisco to return to his home and family in Australia. Steven enjoyed a career in hairstyling, predominantly in the Castro and West Portal areas. He loved art, gardening and friends. Steven - we remember your smile and wonderful heart. We are missing you!

Frank Pomanto

1930 — 1999



Former Bay Area resident and businessman Frank Pomanto died of cancer in Las Vegas on February 23.

In an age of hype and instant "classic" sporting events, our friend had a low-key, down-to-earth manner — truly a "man's man" in every sense of the term.

Frank Carroll Pomanto was born June 5, 1930 in Downingtown, Pennsylvania. After high school graduation, he enlisted and served with distinction in the U.S. Army.

After the service and some years in Philadelphia, Frank transferred west to the Bay Area where he lived first in San Francisco and later in Hayward. He was a long-time management employee of Beneficial Finance.

Twenty years ago, Frank moved to Las Vegas to pursue new opportunities in that rapidly growing area. He founded and was president of the Sierra Nevada Mortgage Company, Las Vegas.

Sports were a major life-long interest for him. Frank was a loyal follower of the San Francisco Forty Niners and the Penn State Nittany Lions.

Roman Catholic funeral services and Veterans Cemetery burial took place in Las Vegas in late February. Frank is survived by his brothers David of Chester Springs, Pennsylvania and Orlando of Las Vegas, and also by his sisters Rose Bruno and Agnes DiBuiss of Downingtown, Pennsylvania.

Among many surviving friends throughout the west are Dick Markus and Jim Dewey of San Francisco and Jon Post of Astoria, Oregon.

The family requests memorial donations be made to the American Cancer Society.

Both interventions are offered in English or Spanish at all sites.

Ahern believes "this study is crucially important since: 1) Explore could provide a potent case for funding of more and enhanced prevention counseling not just here where we are lucky to have many good programs, but as a national standard, for gay men and others; 2) it tests the individual as opposed to group sessions, and therefore is more tailored and confidential; and 3) it's big, high-profile, and well-funded enough to have the number of people required to use HIV seroconversion as its primary endpoint.

"Research like this cannot occur without the generous participation of people who share their time and life experience with us. We believe both sides benefit in this interaction. An effective vaccine is some years off, so it is critical now to study new methods of prevention counseling.

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UCSF RESEARCHERS at San Francisco General Hospital are recruiting **HIV POSITIVE PEOPLE** for clinical trials:

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Whoosh! San Francisco's ride for life

Ron Wilmot Bike Ride for Project Inform May 8

by Mark Norby

The clicking sounds of shifting gears will echo through the valleys of trees in Golden Gate Park as the Ron Wilmot Bike Ride rolls forward Saturday, May 8 at 9 a.m., starting at Peacock Meadow. The ride is the fifth annual tour in honor of Wilmot, an HIV/AIDS activist and avid cyclist who died of AIDS complications in 1997. It was Wilmot's wish for family and friends that they continue riding and organizing support for Project Inform (PI) in the fight against AIDS.

The popularity of the ride stems from its local Bay Area focus; it's a ride within the community, for the community, and for participants of all ages and bike-riding abilities. Wilmot conceived the idea in 1995, and since then it has raised more than \$200,000. Last year alone the ride raised over \$60,000, the highest figure yet, and 99 percent of the money raised directly supported PI's services. This year organizers hope to coast by that figure and reach six digits, which would make the event one of the most profitable AIDS fundraisers in the Bay Area.

A few of the corporate sponsors include American Airlines, the Gap, the Castro Lions Club, Voo

Doo Cycles, and Mecca restaurant. All riders are urged to gather at least \$500 in pledges, and ambitious bikers raising higher amounts will be honored in three cash-raising categories including Silver Riders, who raise \$500 to \$999; Gold Riders, who raise \$1,000 to \$1,999; and Platinum Riders, who raise more than \$2,000. Special prizes will be given to bikers in those three categories, and a raffle at Peacock Meadow will help generate additional funds for PI.

PI, established in 1985 as a national, nonprofit, community-based HIV/AIDS treatment information and advocacy organization, serves people living with HIV/AIDS, caregivers, healthcare, and service providers through the hotline; its publication, *PI Perspective* and other information publications; educational town hall meetings; online services; and research and drug access advocacy programs.

A committed group of hotline volunteers staffs PI's national HIV/AIDS treatment hotline, answering calls, providing HIV treatment information, giving callers support in developing strategies that work for them, and helping them determine the best way to access treatment. The toll-

free hotline fields nearly 40,000 calls a year from all the diverse communities affected by the AIDS epidemic: men, women, youth, transgender, and people of color who are HIV-positive; doctors, nurses, service providers, and social workers; and family and friends of people living with HIV/AIDS. Nearly 35 percent of the hotline callers are women. All services are free.

Anyone unable to ride in the Wilmot Bike Ride, but who is willing to be a sponsor, is invited to come to Peacock Meadow the day of the event with donations, and to enjoy complimentary food and drink. Or they can bring donations to PI, located at 205 13th Street, Suite 2001, where they can obtain the latest HIV/AIDS information.

Sponsor pledge forms are also available at PI. Pledge donations should be brought to the event directly, with checks made out to Project Inform. ▼

More information is available by calling Julie Doherty at (415) 558-8669, ext. 223, or register on-line by visiting the Ron Wilmot Bike Ride website at www.projinf.org.

AIDS Ride

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get things donated," including "gear parties," where "people who can't afford to buy stuff ask others to donate equipment or money for the ride."

To begin the participation, applicants must submit a \$45 fee, which does not go toward fundraising, then raise a minimum of \$2,500 in pledges. "Twenty five hundred dollars is not an easy amount," he admits, "but everybody exceeds that."

When asked about the financial problems of AIDS rides, Hall said, "There are two sides to this. You can't control how much money is going to be made. I think that for other rides, as in Florida, too many organizations were supposed to get money from the ride. People were fighting. It's less profitable for different organizations."

Hall believes that for the California Ride, "Sixty percent of donor dol-

lars go back to AIDS." For the California AIDS Ride, the net proceeds will be shared between the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF). Foundation brochures back up these claims with charts and figures.

Even so, the negative publicity about some rides has occasionally surfaced, when people he approached for donations had negative reactions. With time he has become better able to handle that. "Last year, I took it personally if people wouldn't donate," he said. "I realized I couldn't do that."

He prefers not to "judge people who aren't into it. You don't know why people are choosing not to donate. A lot of people feel put down. People should have the option to say no. They should help the organizations they believe in. The goal of the AIDS Ride is to put together a community." ▼

Next week: part three

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COMMUNITY NEWS

UCSF staffers honored for public service

by Cynthia Laird

Four University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) faculty and staff members received the Chancellor's Award for Public Service at a special presentation last Tuesday, April 20, including two hard-working but low-profile longtime activists in the Bay Area queer community. The awards were presented by UCSF Chancellor Dr. J. Michael Bishop during the school's Founders Day luncheon in the Millberry Union Gymnasium.

Openly lesbian staff member Trinity Ordona and gay man Richard Wagner shared the Chancellor's Award for Public Service for a staff member.



Jane Philomen Cleland

Trinity Ordona

A manager in the department of biopharmaceutical sciences, Ordona for 30 years has been a community activist battling social injustices. Her efforts have involved local, state, and national issues and international concerns.

Since 1985, Ordona's focus has been organizing in the gay community, serving on many committees and boards. She co-

founded the Asian Pacific Lesbian Organization, Asian Pacific Islander Lesbian Network, a national organization, and the Asian Lesbian Network, an international organization. She also co-founded the Asian and Pacific Islander Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (API PFLAG).

"It is a testament to UCSF's commitment to diversity that people like me can be openly gay and successful personally and professionally," Ordona told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "Yet it's from community service work that I've performed over the last 30 years that made those changes possible at UCSF."



Richard Wagner

Wagner, an administrator in the department of biochemistry and a therapist, established a nonprofit volunteer organization named Paradigm in June 1994, to help terminally or chronically ill, aging, and dying people become psychologically, emotionally, responsibly, and practically prepared for their own impending mortality.

Through workshops, group support, and one-on-one mentoring, the participants gain perspective, understanding, and knowledge about the dying process and

practical, legal, and financial preparations for it. The participants in this program have evolved from predominantly HIV-positive men and women, to women with cancer, cardiac disease, and the aged.

Wagner serves as Paradigm's unpaid executive vice president, where his roles include organizer, facilitator, fundraiser, volunteer recruiter, grant-writer, public relations person, troubleshooter, and problem solver.

Before coming to UCSF over two years ago, Wagner was an ordained Catholic priest from 1975 to 1995 when he was thrown out of the church. "The reason I had a problem with the church was I did my doctoral dissertation on the sexual attitudes and behaviors of Catholic priests," Wagner told the *B.A.R.*

Wagner said he's honored by the award and said he's "humbled by the experience and grateful for the recognition."

Other award recipients included Dr. Philip Darney, professor and interim chair of obstetrics and gynecology at the UCSF-affiliated San Francisco General Hospital Medical Center; and Eva M. McGhee, a postdoctoral fellow in pediatrics and medical genetics. ▼

Dykeotomy

◀ page 10

told students in Virginia, "There is really nothing more important than keeping our schools safe." But one has to wonder why he overlooked the steps needed to make them safe in the first place.

In schools across the country reports of sexual harassment are sky high. Racial tensions remain an everyday reality. Schools are simply not equally safe for all students — just ask members of any Gay/Straight Alliance — that is, if the school allows them to meet. The very notion of "keeping" schools safe ignores the precise reality that may have pushed the disturbed duo to declare war upon their classmates and turn guns on themselves: high school in America demands a narrow conformity, and it exacts a high emotional tax on any who follow their own freaky, weird, outcast (and, yes, queer) drumbeat. And people who have been taught not to value their own lives are likely not to value the lives of others.

When some two-eared people actually listened to how the two-eyed people characterized them, they realized that they were misunderstood, not being seen for who they were. They realized that the number of eyes was not the problem, but the lack of vision was. Two-eyed leaders invited some particularly clear-sighted Bi-focals into their lives to let them witness two-eared life for themselves.

That was the beginning of a real revolution. People realized that they had much to teach one another, and individuals experienced radical changes of heart. They learned the difference between qualities and quantity — that seeing was possible with a single eye and listening could prove sharp with but a single ear.

It was not sensory power that mattered, but how one acted in accordance with those senses. All people learned to celebrate differences rather than use them to define superiority or inferiority. Everyone agreed that the fewer arms, the better, and in was understood to be inhuman to use one's trigger finger.

Oh, if only it were that simple! Those of us who function in adult work environments or social circles know how rare and difficult a change of heart can be. Many playground bullies grow up to be corporate bullies. High school outcasts remain marginalized in adult life. Plenty stand in silent witness to cruelty and injustice. The cast of characters in the adult world seems to mirror the hallways of our high school days.

No one can fail to see the tragedy in Colorado. Who does not want to look at this generation of kids and tell them, whatever their pain, violence is not the answer?

But actions do have a voice of their own, perhaps louder than words. Before I point blame at the fictions of Hollywood, I would like to weigh in on reality. We, as a country, often try to make right with might. Our government claims to know the good Kosovars from the bad Kosovars. We are currently unleashing our national arsenal in the vain hope of settling a complicated and long-standing conflict. Our military officials have been carefully stockpiling arms and planning deadly missions. American history reveals a tradition of settling differences with gunfire and explosives.

And now we discover that our children have learned our history well, perhaps too well.

So, what does it mean to grow up — whether you are four, fourteen, forty, or eighty-four — in America these days? ▼



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STATEMENT FILE NO. 229216

The following person(s) are doing business as, Arts 'N Graphs, 401 Parker Avenue #3, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Brahma B. Swami. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 02/22/99. APR. 8,15,22,29 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 230418

The following person(s) are doing business as, San Francisco Bayside Travelodge, 2011 Bayshore Blvd., San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by an corporation, signed Norman F. Eichmann. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03/31/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 04/01/99. APR. 8,15,22,29 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 230224

The following person(s) are doing business as, Arts 'N Graphs, 401 Parker Avenue #3, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Luis E. Gutierrez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/26/99. APR. 8,15,22,29 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 230416

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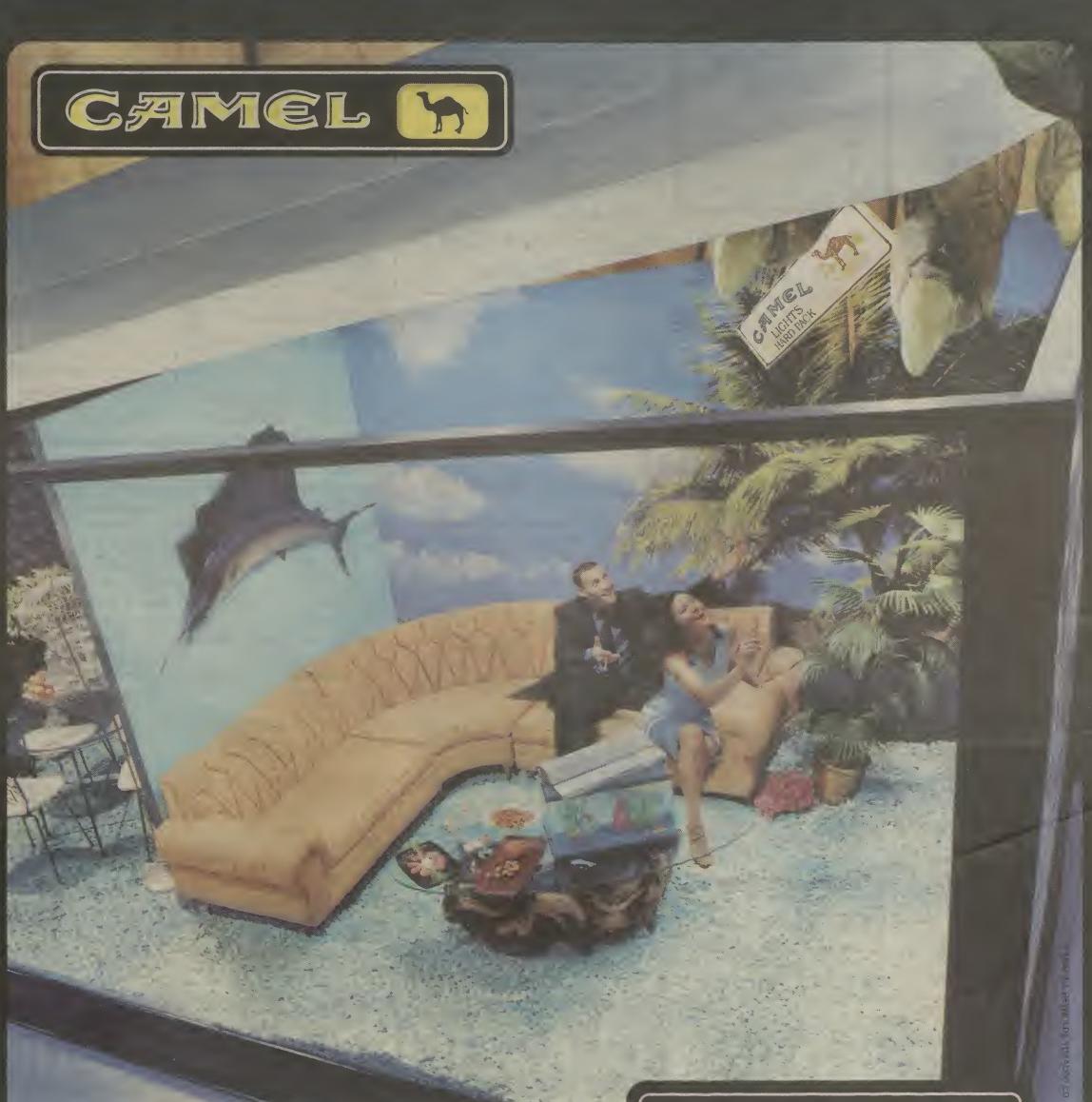
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page 38-39

Historic occasion
GLHS's gala serves up
Joe Goode, fab artworks.
page 34



Twist and shout
Basil Twist's
'Symphonie Fantastique.'
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 29 • No. 17 • 29 April 1999

Rock the Boat's high seas adventure

Cruising with the angels

by David Lamble

At a time of life when most men are mourning their youth, ditching old boyfriends and readying themselves for a first class nervous breakdown, eleven guys from Beach Boy country decided to sail off to Hawaii — literally just to prove that they could do it. The crew of the sloop Survivor had just one thing in common before they hoisted sail. All were HIV-positive gay men out to show that their lives were about more than just conquering a disease. And the trip they were making was no ordinary weekend whale-watching cruise, but a serious entry in one of the most prestigious and arduous events in the annals of sport racing, the Trans-Pacific Yacht Race, a grueling 2,250 miles from California to Hawaii across open sea. Of the 39 ships that left Long Beach, California, only 32 sailed across the finish line through the treacherous straits surrounding Honolulu harbor.

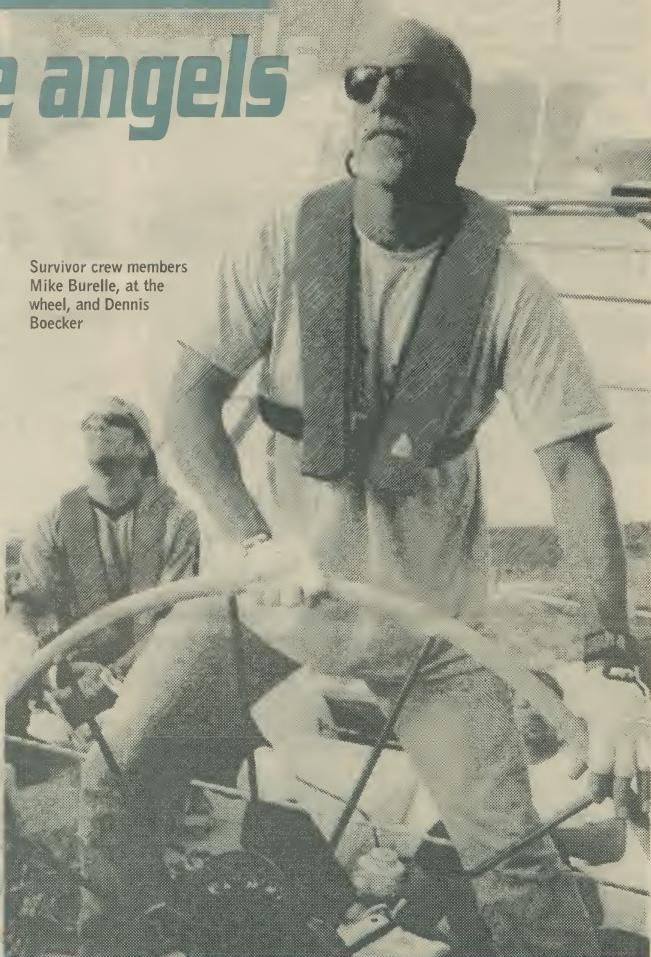
There was another man aboard the sloop Survivor, and in some ways the most amazing part of the adventure is the documentary *Rock the Boat*, taken from more than 100 hours of video shot by filmmaker

Robert Houston. Houston, whose previous film, *Trust Me*, is a black comedy about an art dealer selling the work of recently deceased painters, was used to commanding a full 35mm crew. This time he would be completely on his own, forced to come up with ingenious ways of filming, like the use of coal miners' lights to film interviews on long moonless nights at sea. The resulting film is a unique mix of high seas adventure, queens-at-sea soap opera, and just a touch of black comedy.

The story has its beginnings in the determination of Houston's lover, sailor Robert Hudson, to prove that there is life after HIV, even after the diagnosis of full-blown AIDS. Hudson, founder of the Get Challenged project, decided to give HIV-positive people some role models. Says Hudson, "We set out to change the way AIDS is perceived in the '90s." Starting out with virtually no money, a phone line, a fax machine, and a determination not to take no for an answer, Hudson soon zeroed in on a vessel that would turn into either a dreamboat or a ship of fools. *Rock the Boat*

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Survivor crew members
Mike Burelle, at the
wheel, and Dennis
Boecker



Ten The Truth Pictures

Three new books address the female body

Written on the body

by Victoria A. Brownworth



Rebecca McBride

Biology is destiny. That is what women have been told since the dawn of time — or at least the dawn of patriarchy. But the destiny part seems only ever to apply to women, as in Newt Gingrich's infamous discourse before he was ridden out of Washington on the proverbial rail. When asked to comment on the issue of women in combat, Gingrich noted that because women menstruated and couldn't urinate standing up, they couldn't spend time in foxholes because they would get infections. Hence, they shouldn't go into combat because it was impractical. Somehow the question of actual dying — by men or women — never got addressed. Gingrich, like so many others before him, stuck to the frivolous aspects of biology to define women's ability.

That women have long accepted these ar-

guments themselves is undeniable. Body and biology rule women's lives as much post-feminism as pre-feminism. The statistical evidence is as close as the nearest women's magazine — or the nearest feminism icon. At the recent revival of *Ms.* magazine, Gloria Steinem, *Ms.* co-founder and former Playboy bunny, now 64, was wearing a miniskirt — the same article of clothing that got her tagged by the mainstream media as the "pretty" (read, not a bull dyke and still attractive to men) feminist back in the '60s.

Disturbingly, not a lot has changed for girls and women, queer or straight, over the three-plus decades since the second wave of feminism took hold in America. Women actually make less on the male dollar than they did 30 years ago. Reproductive choice is just as limited, and breast cancer, lung cancer, auto-immune disease and AIDS are

page 36 ▶

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

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THE MID-COUNTY POST KUSP

by Roberto Friedman and Pan Narks

The press office at the San Francisco International Film Festival was making us choose: did we want to go to the festival's opening night film and party, or the closing night? We wanted to go to both, so we threw our weight around (all 145 lb. of it) for you, dear reader, for you. Opening night festivities were packed with black-clad cineastes and dripping with glamour. When we gave our press credentials at the door of Mecca for the pre-event reception, the greeter exclaimed, "I think there'll be more press here than guests!" Well, as long as you put us in that place, dear.

Pal Pepi's first question to the bar: "Is everything on the house?"

Soon handlers were approaching us as we enjoyed a few glasses of fine Napa bubbly and yummy Mecca snacks at the oval bar. They discreetly mentioned that we had fifteen minutes to hightail it to the Castro for the world premiere of *The Winslow Boy*, a movie which proves that writer/director David Mamet is capable of doing *Masters of the Universe* with the best of them.



David Mamet

Then it was time to trek up-town on Van Ness Avenue ("the Champs Elysées of San Francisco") — former SF mayor Dianne Feinstein — to the afterparty in the elegant ballroom of the newly restored Regency Building, which was once a movie theatre, and has now become a place where film people party. How fascinatingly symmetrical. Festival artistic director Peter Scarlet glad-handed his way through the crowd, looking somewhat like film actor Peter Sellers in *Being There*. The band played Motown and (we kid you not) "Dance to the Music" and, the girl singers donning shiny macs, "It's Raining Men!" But it wasn't, at least not of the available variety, so, nodding greetings to a Thai waiter who recognized us from our late liquid lunches at his Folsom Street ("the Champs Elysées of our SF") establishment, we left.

Fever dreams

Author Gary Indiana was in town last week for his *Three Month Fever* book tour, and a few folks who reportedly knew the subject of the book, sociopath Andrew Cunanan, including *Military Trade* author Steven Zeeland, showed up for Indiana's reading at A Different Light, telling him, "Andrew would have loved the book!" We guess that's good. Diff Light manager Richard Labonte lost his bet that Indiana would read the passage from *Three Month Fever* in which



Steven Zeeland

Andrew does a little shoplifting at the Castro Street bookstore.

Rather than wedge ourselves into the shoebox space which that establishment uses for author appearances, we caught Indiana's reading in spacious quarters at City Lights bookstore in North



Johnny Kat as "Swamp Lady"

"I'm a Queen In Drag, and My Friend's a Hag." Johnny came out in his "Swamp Lady" drag, and then went off to get glamorized. This took some time. Kat had to shop for a whole new outfit (size 14), which, he adds, "I did not get to keep — thank you very much, Ricki." Kat says he "felt like *Ann-Margret*" in his new glamour drag. Ricki herself (who is "all business," sez Kat) took him aside and confided that he was her favorite guest that day. We bet she says that to all the girls.

Kat has been told that the show will air "sometime in May," which will coincide with his return to the wicked stage in the new rock musical *Cyberotica!* In addition to Kat, the show features the talents of SF denizens Arturo Galster, Leigh Crow, Birdie-Bob Watt, and a host of usual suspects. The show opens on May 13 and plays Thursdays for 13 weeks at the Transmission Theatre, 314 11th St. Call 861-6906 or BASS for tickets.

Photo pop

There we are in bodily form in the pages of the 4/27 issue of "the magazine of gay adult entertainment," *Unzipped* — but we are very much zipped, thank Q. Ironically enough, given our stakes in the gossip game, our likeness is captured on the page designated for "hot insider gossip," in a pic of us at a late dinner in the Disastro with porn director Gino Colbert, playwright Ronnie Larsen, H/X's Joe Manghise, and the dashing editor of *Unzipped* himself, John Erich. Truth to tell, it's fun having your photo in a national porn-fed glossy, in full glorious color no less, but we have to say we much prefer being on the other side of the scandal sheet. Is this how editrix Tina Brown got her start?

Family values

Finally, a moment of remembrance for actress Ellen Corby, who passed on earlier this month. You may recall Corby played Grandma Walton on TV's classic family show *The Waltons*. Interestingly, not a few obituaries, in addition to listing her achievements, including an Oscar nomination, and her struggles with post-stroke life, concluded with the sentence: "She is survived by her friend of 45 years, Stella Luchetta of Los Angeles." Any queer worth her salt knows exactly what that means.

By now it's well known that Corby's counterpart on *The Waltons*, Will Geer, who played Grandpa Walton, was gay as a hoot. So now we know why the Senior Waltons' marriage lasted so long: Grammy left Gramps to his own sex, and vice versa. This also explains where John-Boy's fey genes came from. Next question? ▼

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THEATRE

Have tank, will travel

Basil Twist brings 'Symphonie Fantastique' to Zeum Theatre

by Richard Dodds

Basil Twist is the name, and puppets are his game. But we're not talking Kukla, Fran, and Ollie here. Or even *The Lion King*.

"It's like nothing you've ever seen before," wrote one New York theater critic about Twist's production of *Symphonie Fantastique*. That show, wrote another, "is a gratifying reminder that there are still things undreamt of in theater."

The 29-year-old Twist, who was born with his evocative name, is back in his native San Francisco to recreate this surprise New York sensation. "It's really special for me to come back," he said before beginning a day of rehearsals at the new Zeum Theatre in Yerba Buena Gardens. "Not just to come back as a visitor, but fully as who I am, as a gay man and an artist."

For Twist, who was mocked for his Miss Piggy posters as a teenager and gave up an early interest in puppets because they seemed "too sissy," his breakthrough success with *Symphonie Fantastique* is sweet indeed. It was his idea that San Francisco should be the first city after New York to see his creation.

That creation represents the culmination of Twist's goal to



Basil Twist

Kent Taylor

tence as they move through the water. "But the water is not what this is about," Twist said. "I would be happy if the audience came in not knowing it was looking at a tank of water. It's just a medium to create a universe of its own, a technique to create something I had never seen before."

'Fantastique' journey

When he was thinking about what music to use, Twist recalled hearing *Symphonie Fantastique* at home as a child. "I was really taken with it," he said, "and when

Twist's goal is to shake the dust off puppetry, to wake up the art form as painters did decades ago.

shake the dust off puppetry, to wake up the art form as the abstract pioneers did with painting decades ago. Using Hector Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique* as his inspiration, Twist has created a 60-minute visual impression of the classical music composition. Working with four other puppeteers, and masked from the audience's view, Twist and his team manipulate the "puppets" through water in a 100-gallon tank.

Watching what looks like a giant-screen TV, the audience sees such mundane objects as pieces of cloth, Mylar strips, and white sheets take on an ethereal exis-

I decided to do this, it was an obvious choice. I had been dabbling with the underwater pieces, but for a one-hour show I needed a strong text, and *Symphonie Fantastique* is an extremely theatrical piece of music, with sweeping mood changes."

With funds donated by his terminally ill grandmother, Twist fashioned his own performance space at the HERE theater complex in Manhattan. In New York, where the original run is continuing, the theater holds just 80 people, who watch the proceedings in a tank half the size as the one built for the San Francisco run.

"We had a lot of offers from experienced New York producers who wanted to move the show," said HERE director Barbara Buckino, who is also producing the \$250,000 San Francisco version. "But no one could grasp what Basil's process was. We've even gotten calls from Las Vegas. 'How big can you go?' So the San Francisco run is a test to see if we can go bigger without compromising Basil's vision."

That vision first showed up in the elaborate Halloween costumes Twist would design for himself as a boy. His parents supported this creativity, but he succumbed to peer pressure in high school and stuffed his love of puppets in the closet. After graduating from San Francisco University High School, he headed to Oberlin College, where he was miserable.

He began exploring puppetry programs, which led to an opportunity to work with the celebrated Julie Taymor in her pre-*Lion King* days and to study at the Center for Puppetry Arts in Atlanta. He then became the first American ever accepted at the prestigious Ecole Supérieure Nationale des Arts de la Marionnette in northern France.

"I had to go there to audition, and Jim Henson passed away while I was there," Twist said. "It was very powerful for me because he was such a hero of mine."

The school was steeped in tradition, and he laughs when people ask him if he learned his water techniques while he was there. "But I was exposed to so many things and was able to form my own opinions, and came up with what I thought was missing in puppetry."

Flipping wigs

When Twist returned to the United States, he began creating puppets that he would take around to New York clubs and bars. "At the Boy Bar, I came on after all these drag performers with a puppet that could pull its wig off. I did a thing at Wigstock with a puppet that looked like Lady Bunny, who is the high priestess of Wigstock. At Jackie 60, they had *A Night of 1,000 Stevie Nicks*, and I brought my Stevie Nicks puppet." About six years ago, he became a couple with Bobby Miller, a photographer and

spoken-word artist.

In more recent years, he has worked with such established groups as Mabou Mines, and was a major contributor to its well-received production of *Peter and Wendy* that played Berkeley Rep earlier this year. He's also been commissioned to create a new work for Lincoln Center's New Visions/Voices Program in 2000.

"This whole thing started as an experiment in a 10-gallon tank, and now it's taken on quite a life of its own," Twist said. Although *Symphonie Fantastique* is playing in San Francisco for an open-ended run, the 100-gallon tank designed by his father and grand-

father is built for touring.

"I also have other productions that I'll be collaborating on, including something for Mabou Mines that will use wind machines, and there's the commission from Lincoln Center for something along the lines of *Symphonie Fantastique*. But I still haven't figured out yet how to top *Symphonie Fantastique*." ▀

Symphonie Fantastique is now in previews at the Zeum Theatre in Yerba Buena Gardens prior to a May 5 opening. Tickets are \$20-\$50. Call 820-3353.

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Mythomaniacs

C.A.F.E. in 'Spring Returns' at Venue 9

by Deborah Peifer

Combined Art Form Entertainment (C.A.F.E.) presents *Spring Returns*, a collection of myths, folktales and short stories told in the story theatre style made famous by Paul Sills and Viola Spolin. I haven't heard of story theatre since I left Chicago, so I thought I'd better speak with the group's artistic director, Matthew Quinn, and find out just what was up with that. Quinn studied with a teacher who had studied with Sills, so he is just one generation removed from a unique theatrical form.

"We adapt folktales and short stories for performance, using improvisation and story-theatre techniques," Quinn said. "The talent in the group is phenomenal. These are amazing actors. For this show we looked for stories having to do with Spring and the idea of the return. The stories have an international flavor, ranging from a Chinese folktale about money to a Yugoslavian gypsy myth of a dead man who returns to pay a debt."

Of course, the Demeter myth is included in the mix of seven stories — that does explain why we have Spring, after all — but Quinn explains that "people connect with myths and folktales. At the end of the show, we take suggestions from the audience to improvise our own original mythic tales. The show moves quickly, with both serious and humorous stories. I like to think we're bringing the audience something it hasn't seen before."

Spring Returns plays Venue 9, 252 Ninth Street, between Folsom and Howard, April 30 through May 2. Call 673-0304.

Young people

Now there's a phrase I never dreamed I'd be old enough to use. Nevertheless, there are some stunning performances by said young people happening in the area in the upcoming weeks. When I was in high school, the big issue was

gum. Times have changed, and the Young California Writers Project at Magic Theatre offers a chance to see what's on the minds of some very talented high school students. The students work with professional playwrights to learn the craft, and then, more importantly, get to see their work performed on a real stage with professional actors and directors. I've attended the shows in the past, and have been moved, entertained, and often astonished by the quality of the work.

This year, the students are from School of the Arts and McAteer High School. Don't miss a spectacular evening of theatre, May 10-11 at Magic Theatre, Fort Mason. Admission is free, but donations are accepted. Call 441-8822.

ACT's Young Conservatory offers a new play, *The Automata Pieta*, a work especially commissioned for the Conservatory's New Plays Program. Here's a chance to see the actors you'll be paying to see in a few years. Performances take place at the Hastings Studio Theatre, 30 Grant Avenue, on May 15-16. Admission is free, but reservations are required. Call 439-2444.

Also from ACT, the second year students of the Advanced Training Program present *As You Like It* and *Pericles* in repertory through May 8 at Magic Theatre.



Curtain Up!

Call ACT's box office at 749-2228 for tickets which are not free, but are lots cheaper than the ones you'll be buying in even fewer years to see these young actors.

Moving up the age scale at ACT, *The First Picture Show* is a musical theatre piece that focuses on the women directors of the silent film era. Yes, it's true, there were women doing those "all male" jobs in the early years, just as there have always been women doing "all male" jobs, but I'm certain the play is not as didactic as I am. Bring canned tuna in water or peanut butter in plastic containers to benefit Project Open Hand on May 13, and you can pay what you wish for your ticket that night. The show runs May 6 through June 6 at the Geary Theatre, Geary at Mason.

Don't miss...

...the extraordinary Sara Felder in *Shlitz! A Queer Play on Jewish Vaudeville*, her exploration of two women living on opposite ends of the 20th century who share a history and an identity. Felder's work is always queer, always fabulous and always worth seeing. She is moving to Israel after the run (the farewell party/opening gala is on May 10), so this is your last chance to see one of our great artists. The show runs through May 30 at A Traveling Jewish Theatre, 450 Florida at Mariposa. Call 399-1809.

The Don't Quit Your Day Job Dancers perform *Three Kinds of Heat*, June 4-6 at the Palace of Fine Arts. This is the tenth season for the 135-member troupe; and choreographer Doree Clark says that this year's show is the best yet. I've seen the company perform, and I have to tell you that the enthusiasm, energy and skill of this group is phenomenal. Besides that, how often do you get to see 100 dancers on stage at one time? Previous performances sold out quickly, so a third show has been added this year, but don't wait to call 388-0792 for tickets. ▼



Patrick McNulty as Pericles

If you have gossip, inquiries or information of a performative nature, send them to peiferd@aol.com or via snail mail to the B.A.R.

COMEDY

'Bi-comical' Jewish lesbian comic: Oy vey!

Michele Balan on 'Feygelah Schmeygelah'

by Richard Dodds

Michele Balan, who makes her living making people laugh, doesn't remember being a class clown back in Brooklyn. "But I do remember the teacher putting Scotch tape on my mouth in the second grade for talking too much," she said. "Now, if they tried to do that in New York, the only tape would be the outline of the dead teacher."

Balan, who can still talk up a storm, peppered a recent interview with one-liners culled from a life filled with hard knocks on strange doors. "One good thing about my life as a gay person," she said in a distinctive New York growl, "was that it didn't bother my father. My family was just happy I stayed alive because they saw me living in the Village with a junkie. Gay was the good side."

Her roller-coaster life is also fodder for her stand-up routine, which she will offer on May 1 at Herbst Theatre as part of *Feygelah Schmeygelah: An Evening of Queer Jewish Comedy*. "Usually when I perform," Balan said, "there are like three Jews in the entire audience, and it's not worth doing any kind of Jewish humor. This will be fun because of that."

Balan was talking from Los Angeles, where she had just recorded a live CD titled *Neurotic by Nature*. She had been looking forward to this gig so she could visit her lover in San Francisco. "But we broke up before I could get there," she said. "Honey, I have my own ex-files."

Sometimes people ask why her act doesn't focus more on the positive. "But what comedy is talking about the things that annoy you or upset you," she said. "Would people laugh if I got on stage and said, 'What a great day I had. Life is fabulous?' So, all of the angst you have in your life, if you're going to go through it, make it work for you."

Lady Diana

For Balan, who says she is "pushing 40 to pushing a walker," the angst started at an early age. She remembers moving around a lot as a child for reasons that remain cloudy. "The worst thing you could do to a kid was start a kid in the middle of the school year," she said. "I'd spend time in my room doing lip sync to records and have fantasies that I was Diana Ross."

There was the traumatic loss of her mother when she 10, followed by an unhappy relationship with her distracted father's new wife, not to mention a bizarre relationship with the grandmother who largely raised her and her siblings.

"My grandmother was wild," Balan said. "She was a bootlegger when she was younger. She'd go out dancing in low-cut blouses at 70 years old. She was even having sex with some man until the day she died, God bless her. It had its coolness, but she thought of it as an unwelcome job to have to keep an eye out for us."

And so Balan struck out on her own at 17, and lived her own version of life in the fast lane. She worked in gay bars, drank in them too, and met her first lover there



Michele Balan

as well. It was also in a gay bar that she got her first taste of show business.

"Everyone said I reminded them of Bette Midler, and I would do these lip-sync impersonations at parties," she said. "I went to a bar with some friends, and they made me enter a contest, and I must have been drinking a lot because I did it. And so there I was with these drag queens, and I won. The next thing I knew, they were booking me to do a show."

Balan began getting laughs with her patter between the songs, and eventually she was trying out material on open-mike nights at comedy clubs. But when she finally quit her job working at a computer graphics company, it wasn't yet to go full time into comedy. "I got a little wrapped up in that cocaine thing, so I took a leave of absence from the company, and then, after I got sober and quit with drugs, I just reevaluated my life."

Pen-what?

Even though she had already been living with a lesbian lover by the time she was 18, it was years before her comedy reflected her sexuality. "I'd do those silly 'my boyfriend and I' jokes, and a little voice would go off inside my head and say, 'Boyfriend? You don't even know what a penis looks like anymore.' That was hard, not being real, so I started to drop that part of the act."

As she began to feel attitudes change, and as she found herself booked more and more into gay venues, Balan began to let her material reflect the whole of her life. Describing herself as 'bi-comical,' she wants to appeal to all audiences. "My humor is a little bit of

everything," she said. "I don't focus on, 'Oh, I'm a lesbian' or 'I'm this or that.' I just talk about my experiences, and that's why I often attract a large male audience, because I don't make it one-note."

Her favorite audiences, in fact, are probably gay men. "Women, sometimes by virtue of being women, they think about what you say, like, could that be politically incorrect in any way. They have to permit themselves to laugh. With gay men, it's like, hey, let's party."

But even now, Balan worries about the career damage that her openness has caused in Hollywood. "When casting people see me doing gay comedy, they pigeonhole me rather than just saying she's funny. I could pass for not-gay, but once they know you are, their whole feeling about it changes. When Ellen came out, it was important for us comedians to see where it went, and now we have *Will & Grace*, and the guy isn't even gay."

Through her ups and downs, Balan has always found balm in the spotlight. "Getting on stage helps me," she said. "It's like my therapy. That and cleaning, believe it or not. If I quit comedy I can always have my own cleaning service. I'd call it Comedy Cleaning." ▼

Michele Balan will appear at *Feygelah Schmeygelah* on a bill with the Kinsey Sicks, Lisa Geduldig, and Lynne Jassem's StepFire Tap Dance Theatre at the Herbst Theatre on May 1. Tickets are \$18-\$22. Call 392-4400.

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The art of history

Gay & Lesbian Historical Society puts on benefit bash

by Mark Mardon

Raising money for history has never been easy. For many people, history is academic, something to be watched on PBS or gleaned out of the occasional historical novel. It has rarely been something people want to put out for, monetarily speaking. But for lesbians and gays, history is new — our history, that is — and certainly exciting; however, it's also costly in the sense of the time, effort, and resources needed to dig up the past and preserve it for the future.

That's where the local arts community comes in. An unprecedented event is about to take place in which prominent lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender artists donate their works to help raise funds for history. Specifically, the artists have donated their work for a raffle to help support

The Gay & Lesbian Historical Society (GLHS) of Northern California, which in turn will be honoring one of the premier gay dancers in the nation, Joe Goode.

The event, dubbed the "Art & Award Affair," to be held on May 1 at Yerba Buena Center, will feature a drawing in which five lucky ticket holders will walk away with a wealth of works by local artists. Only 100 individuals will get raffle tickets, so the chances of being a winner are one in 20. Those tickets won't come cheap: each costs \$300 (\$350 if the ticket buyer wishes to bring a guest to the affair). For the winners (there are no losers, considering that everyone will be supporting a worthy, tax-deductible cause), the investment will be well worthwhile. The original art they'll go home with will be priceless. To top it off, everyone will be treated to a performance by Goode, who will be honored at the event with

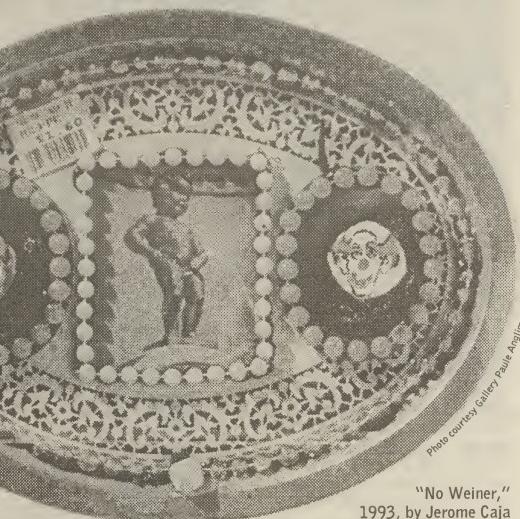
the first GLHS Community Art Award.

Like most everything in life that's fun, the drawing is not exactly egalitarian; some people will get more than others. In this case, there'll be five drawings. The winner of the first drawing gets to choose six of the 19 artworks up for grabs. The second winner gets five, the third four, the fourth three, and the fifth gets the bonus prize, a Ross Bleckner print.

The 19 pieces donated for the GLHS fundraiser come from artists based in San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York City, including Don Bachardy, Jerome Caja (courtesy of the Estate of Jerome Caja and Gallery Paule Anglim), Jordy Jones, Daniel Nicoletta, Kim Anno, EG Crichton, Vince Golevo, Leonie Guyer, Scott Hewicker, Georgia Metz, Glenn Ligon, Rodney O'Neal Austin, Catherine Opie, Connie Samaras, Don Spencer, Fred Wilson, Millie Wilson, and Robert Wilson (courtesy of Geoffrey Wexler).

History is made

Such a high-profile fundraising effort will doubtless have some people wondering: What exactly is the GLHS, and what does



"No Weiner,"
1993, by Jerome Caja

slide lectures to enthusiastic and appreciative audiences across the country.

Perhaps the most ardent volunteer for the San Francisco Lesbian and Gay History Project (which eventually morphed into the GLHS) was Bill "Willie" Walker, a one-time nurse who went to school and got a degree in archival science.

"He's been the force behind the GLHS for 14 years," says GLHS Executive Director Susan Stryker. "He really founded it. It started out as boxes in Walker's spare bedroom. Within four years, we'd moved to rented space in the basement of the Theater Rhino building. In 1994, we moved into

GLHS operates by way of committees whose members work on archives, oral history, exhibits, programs, publications, and development.

"We have an immense burden," says Stryker, "to preserve the history of thousands of people," primarily in the Bay Area, but also from all periods and cultures. It's a daunting task, she says, not the least because of the cost of renting office and archive space, maintaining archives, cataloging materials, processing collections, and facilitating research.

Stryker, co-author of the richly illustrated and widely lauded history *Gay by the Bay*, who earned a Ph.D. in history at UC Berkeley, investigating issues of sexuality and gender, says that at the time GLHS was established, there existed no other systematically collected archive of gay historical material: "No manuscript collections, no systematic attempt to collect queer materials in any library or cultural institution. We now have one of the finest collections of gay and lesbian historical materials anywhere. The archives in Los Angeles may be bigger, but it's not in a state that people can use. It's in boxes and boxes. Ours is fully accessible."

"The archives in Los Angeles may be bigger, but it's not in a state that people can use. It's in boxes and boxes. Ours is fully accessible."

— GLHS Executive Director Susan Stryker

it do that needs supporting? The answer requires a little history.

In the early 1980s, when historian Allan Bérubé set out to research the history of gay men and women serving in World War II, he was, for all practical purposes, a lone explorer in a vast wilderness with no map to guide him. As he explains in *Coming Out Under Fire*, the landmark history he produced in 1990 as a result of his long, immense undertaking, all he had to go on at first was a stack of letters written by gay GIs during the war, which had come to him almost by chance. What he didn't have was any systematically compiled and catalogued sources of information on gay and lesbian history. No such archive existed.

Fortunately, Bérubé was part of a grassroots movement in San Francisco that had recently emerged in the Bay Area, aimed, in his words, "to uncover the history of ordinary lesbians and gay men." It was this group, consisting of volunteers, that enabled Bérubé to complete his work and present it not only in book form, but in

our current facility on Market Street."

As word of the history project spread, many people eagerly got involved, including academics, community activists, writers, filmmakers, and others who formed study groups for (in Bérubé's words) "exchanging information, doing research, challenging each other's assumptions and interpretations, introducing new ideas, and developing ways to return our history to our communities." Among the volunteers were the likes of Rob Epstein, Gayle Rubin, Jeffrey Escoffier, and others who would go on to play prominent roles in reclaiming our queer history.

Bearing fruit

One of the fruits of the grassroots movement in which Bérubé and so many others took part was the creation in 1985 of the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society (GLHS) of Northern California, a nonprofit organization dedicated to recovering, preserving, and understanding our history.

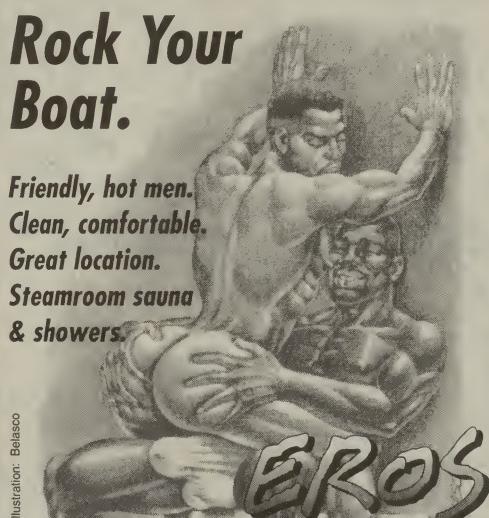
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The Gay & Lesbian Historical Society's first annual Art & Award Affair, featuring a performance by choreographer Joe Goode and a giveaway of works by 19 artists, takes place Saturday, May 1, 6-9 p.m. in the Forum at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. Only 100 tickets will be sold at \$300 each (\$350 with a guest). For tickets, phone 978-2710, ext. 210.

Bad day at Black Rock

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Tis simple: Ratings rule. Sex trumps politics. (That's how the *Monica and Bill Show* pushed health care and any other issue impacting real Americans off the news table.) Violence trumps sex. (Despite grumbling from Republicans, genocide in Kosovo finally knocked *Bill and the BJs* out of the headlines.) But the big ratings grabber, the one that makes conscienceless media hounds salivate like Pavlov's pack, will always be violence and kids, what the media likes to label "The Death of Innocence" — which is why the suburban bloodbath at Colorado's Columbine High School last week has been the topic of every news, tabloid, talk and panel TV show since April 20. Nothing draws an audience like terror and pathos.

The TV orgy of hand-wringing and blame-tossing that has saturated the networks since last week exemplifies what's wrong with TV and America. Our voyeuristic blood lust is boundless. Unfortunately, there is no 12-step program to break us of this grisly desire — but there are TV programs aplenty to feed our insatiable hunger for blood and guts (preferably the exploded and shrapneled variety). Any day now we expect a new cable channel to spring up called *Abattoirs and Charnel Houses*. America is not a PAX TV nation.

What went wrong? This question has been repeated like a mantra by every news anchor and talk show host from Peter Jennings and Tom Brokaw to Rosie O'Donnell and Oprah. They look quizzically into the camera, shake their heads and act as if this is something new in America, something never seen before, something that must be dissected and deconstructed like one of the bombs at Columbine.

And then there are the shows from *Dateline* and *20/20* to *Hard Copy* and *Extra* that detail the massacre minutiae. The networks are mired in replaying every painful and horrific moment of the tragedy. How many times have we seen that boy, spouting blood, fall from the library window onto the top of an EMS truck? How many times have we heard the high-pitched hysterical 911 tapes? How many times have we viewed students running for their lives, herded by SWAT team members in riot gear?

Media overkill is an insidious form of violence. The more we see of horror, the more inured to it we become. The confessional nature of TV — tell-all talk shows, tabloids and "inside editions" — feeds on itself as we feed on it. (Which is why the family of Scott Amedure is currently suing the *Jenny Jones Show* for his death.) Like junkies, we need more and better fixes, such as the TV program that depicts what happens when the train hits the pedestrian or the shark gets its jaws around the swimmer's midsection. It's not enough to imagine such horrors — we must see them, up close and available on video for repeat viewing.

Talk show hosts like Jerry Springer have incurred the wrath

of folks like Rosie O'Donnell, who took him to task this week for promoting violence, but what about the endless victimization programs, facilitated by sincere hosts like Oprah and Montel Williams? Don't these just perpetuate the cycle on which violence feeds by portraying us all as either victims or perpetrators?

In the midst of the media frenzy, a few moments stood out as meaningful. Rosie O'Donnell took on Charlton Heston and the NRA, accusing him of using his celebrity to promote guns and violence (seems obvious, yet no one seems willing to say it). Several teens on a special *Nightline* town meeting in Jonesboro, Arkansas (site of last year's school massacre) explained that kids don't snap

overnight, that the pattern of abuse against them pushes them to retaliatory violence. On a follow-up from Colorado, classmates of the two suspects acknowledged the intensity of the harassment the two boys received. There are lessons within these TV moments. Let's hope they don't get lost in the overkill.

Moving violations

Well, there's no easy transition from murder and mayhem, but overkill was certainly the operative mode at the GLAAD Awards last week. The celebrity straightjackets came out in droves, proving that if queer organizations cater and caving enough, they can achieve that *petit frisson* that comes with being tolerated by the *über Menschen*.

Ellen and Anne were there, of course, Ellen once again tearful, proving that big girls do cry — and often, apparently. And you thought she was the top. All we have to say to that is, Anne Heche was the only presenter at the Oscars to rise above technical difficulties with true aplomb and élan. She may wear the dresses, but she also wears the pants. Speaking of which, also at the GLAAD event, in the Some Dykes Shouldn't Ever Wear Dresses Category: Melissa Etheridge. Someone — probably the person who used to dress Geena Davis at the Oscars — told her she could wear a form-fitting black number with sheer chiffon sleeves. Let's just say she resembled leftovers that hadn't been wrapped properly before being put back in the fridge. We blame the whole transgender trend — now every butch thinks she can "transition" into femme gear. *Mais non, cherie*. Leave the chiffon to your wife — she can carry it off.

Will & Grace won the GLAAD Award for best queer sitcom. (Hello, only queer sitcom, last time we surfed the networks.) It won over *Ellen* — which hasn't been on TV since last year, in case anyone at GLAAD is watching TV, which we always doubt. Perhaps it won because it is actually funny (unlike *Ellen*) or perhaps because it's the only game in town. Nevertheless, Eric McCormack (*Will*) was as gracious as a real queen in thanking Ellen for paving the way for *W&G*.

Meanwhile, *W&G* fab fagola Sean Hayes (Jack) did an interesting (oh just come out, dear, did you learn nothing from *Ellen*?) turn (some might say swish) on *Regis and Kathie Lee* last week

while Megan Mullally (Karen) guested on NBC's *Conan O'Brien*. (Yes, that is pretty much her real voice, though not quite as exaggerated as on *W&G*.) Conan asked her if *W&G* was getting the sexual harassment sensitivity training being ordered for all NBC shows and if the cast was touchy-feely on *W&G*. Mullally, quite definitely not the feather-boa brain Karen is, responded: "It's a constant bacchanalian revel [on the set]. We're always groping, kneading, touching and feeling each other." Indeed.

Speaking of revelatory moments, Dennis "the Worm" Rodman admitted to Diane Sawyer on *20/20* Friday that he had, as a teen, "wanted to be more of a girl than a guy." When she asked if he was gay, he said no, but added, "I'm curious. If you hold and love a guy [hold and love — not fuck and screw, which implies much more involvement to us than just a one-nighter in Las Vegas], you're not necessarily gay, you're loving." We never thought we'd find anything Rodman said worth our approval — which just means we really should never say never.

Finally, May sweeps are right around the dial, and with them two "TV events" (to use the network vernacular) of interest for queers. *Double Platinum*, on ABC May 16, is for those queens who just had to get the new Gloria Gaynor CD. Diana Ross plays the long-lost stage mother of Brandy (a stretch, given the radical age difference, but La Ross has been keeping her face up — literally) in a kind of Motown version of *Stella Dallas*.

And for the girls, a CBS mini-series on the same night — a retelling of the dyke lives of the saints, *Joan of Arc*. This version stars the baby butch Letitia Sobieski in the title role and Shirley MacLaine (there are so many jokes we could make about this casting), Peter O'Toole, Robert Loggia and a host of other aging stars as the supporting cast. (Were they looking for actors actually alive at the time of Joan of Arc — or in MacLaine's case, who at least thought they were?) There are also a great number of guys in tights for the boys who won't be watching La Ross. Both items are worth a VCR run. ▼



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Body lit

◀ Arts cover

killing women at an alarming rate. In addition, there is more rape, domestic violence and murder of women than ever before in this century, as well as more poverty. Lethal obsessional disorders from substance abuse to anorexia and bulimia affect not just adult women but girls as young as eight.

Into this grim landscape of biological determinism three new books come, attempting to address issues related to the female body. Susan Griffin — lesbian-feminist icon, philosopher and ecologist (and Bay Area resident) — has suffered from autoimmune disease for some years. *What Her Body Thought: A Journey into the Shadows* (HarperSanFrancisco, \$23) explores, in often brutal detail, what being a sick woman in a society driven by a lust for hard, and/or sexually attractive female bodies means.

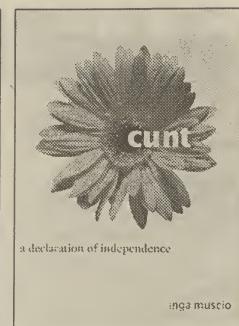
Griffin is an expositor and a poet; *Her Body* resonates with concise, declarative theories and lush, descriptive prose. Her own experience of illness reveals to her a world in which health and the body's perfection are overriding metaphors for how we live our lives and how we treat others. *Her Body* interweaves Griffin's own harrowing tale of becoming so severely ill that she was bedridden and couldn't work, with the archetypal story of the romantically ill woman, Camille, aka Violetta, aka La Traviata, aka the lady of the camellias of novel, opera, play and film fame.

While this idea intrigues and Griffin deconstructs the theme of the woman who literally dies for love with some élan, the author is most successful when detailing her own story. The perils of an ailing body — what that means in terms of one's concept of self, sexuality and personal determinism — are all explicated quite powerfully.

One of the strengths of *Her Body* is Griffin's focus on class and the economics of illness; this is where the interconnection of the two tales has most depth. As a courtesan, Camille literally loses her ability to make a living as she becomes sicker; in renouncing her lover, she also ultimately renounces life — she has no means for survival. Meanwhile, in 20th-century America, Griffin finds herself dependent on friends and acquaintances for her very survival in the early stages of her illness when she cannot make a meal or bathe herself. But living on the largesse of others leaves her in a constant state of anxiety — what if people tire of helping her? What if, as happens one day, she is unbearably ill, believes she is dying, and there is no one to call? It's a striking perspective on what happens to women when their bodies fail them — society soon follows suit.

Get down

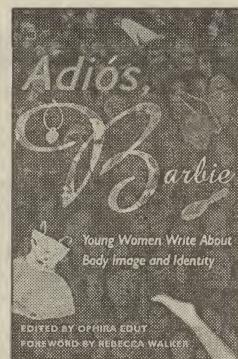
Some women may have trouble going to their local bookstore and asking for Inga Muscio's book by name; most of us have only whispered the word in bed with lovers. In fact, Muscio's editor urged her to change the title for marketing reasons; Muscio refused. Thus, *Cunt: A Declaration of Independence* (Seal Press, \$14.95) is just that. But it is so much more. Possibly the best book on body issues since the groundbreaking, '70s feminist tome *Our Bodies, Ourselves*, *Cunt* is the '90s treatise on how girls/women need to get behind themselves and reclaim the



"Anatomical Jewel" of their being — as well as the language that goes with it. As Muscio notes, quite provocatively, it is the one thing all women have in common. Her modest goal in authoring *Cunt* is to unite all women.

This book is so marvelous, the temptation is to quote from every page. Smart, witty, in-your-face (of course), cutting edge, fascinating, herstorical, this is a book to give every girl/woman you know. Muscio is a young, savvy lesbian from San Francisco with some of the freshest ideas — and syntax — to come along in some time. *Cunt* is mesmerizing.

Musico begins with her own explanation of why "cunt" — it was the one anatomical part on the list of banned curse words in her household growing up; since girlhood she's been on a mission to reclaim, restore and revive the language of her own anatomy and refute the definitions foisted upon



somewhat uneven collection of essays by younger women (mostly under 25) on how they view their bodies in a society that exalts the supermodel and *Baywatch* babe, where most of us have grown up in the terrible shadow of America's iconic female, Barbie.

Edut is founding publisher of HUES (Hear Us Emerging Sisters), a national publication for "women of all cultures and sizes." With nearly 30 contributors, *Barbie* focuses on a range of body-image issues, from the proverbial T & A, as in Erin J. Aubry's "The Butt: Its Politics, Its Profanity, Its Power" to the peril of having a non-Barbie element, such as Lisa Jervis details in "My Jewish Nose."

Issues of sexuality and body get lots of attention: the desexualization of women in certain cultures, as in Marisa Navarro's "Becoming la Mujer," or the flip side

'Cunt' is a political manifesto, a defiant take-back-the-cunt work of art and consciousness.

it. Hence *Cunt* explores everything from the word itself to a herstory of the thing itself to the politics of reclamation and reconciliation. Muscio takes on the oppression of women from the literal core of their being, addressing the hard topics from rape to gender, race, economic and class oppression.

First and foremost, this book is a manifesto, a political statement, a defiant take-back-the-cunt work of art and consciousness. Beautifully designed and printed in a neat hand-sized square, *Cunt* will fit in your pocket or purse, where it should be at all times, to be whipped out and read from singly or in crowds. Buy this book, give it to a woman you love — including yourself. (Men, take note: You could learn a lot from this book.)

Dark shadows

Adios, Barbie: Young Women Write About Body Image and Identity edited by Ophira Edut (Seal Press, \$14.95) is a provocative if



Editor Ophira Edut

— how girls who don't think they are pretty feel they have to give themselves to anyone who asks, as Tali Edut explores in "The Chosen People," or hold out, as in Keesa Schreane's "Appraising God's Property."

Body and race, assimilation and alienation are all addressed in a range of essays, including Mira Jacob's "My Brown Face," Bharati C. Mandava's "To Apu, with Love" and Jill Corral's marvelous "Lucy, I'm Home."

Two of the most provocative and stunning essays in *Barbie* are Diana Courvant's "Strip!" and Nomy Lamm's "Fishnets, Feather Boas and Fat." Courvant is a transitioning MTF with a disability, and Lamm is a 21-year-old punk freak who's been lecturing on fat oppression around the country since she was a teenager. Courvant's essay starts staid and ends with a real bang — she certainly knocks everything we think about female body image, lesbianism and sexuality squarely on its non-Barbie ass. Lamm uses language that shocks to describe her fat self and freak pride; the result truly makes the reader question the way we depict and describe women in our culture and what kind of body heritage we have constructed for our girls.

Barbie is a book primarily for younger women, but women of any age can glean insights into how the models — role as well as super — we've given girls have shaped today's women. It's not a pretty picture, but *Barbie* presents a compelling model for change. ▼

Susan Griffin will read from *What Her Body Thought* on Tuesday, May 18 at 7:30 p.m. at A Different Light, 489 Castro St.

FILM

Rock The Boat

◀ Arts cover

is the story of how close Hudson came to going down with his ship.

Ship fights

The ship Hudson chose was no prizewinner — nor was its owner the nicest guy in the world. After spending a small fortune to prepare the ship for its toughest voyage, the Captain and his "landlord" almost come to blows — in fact, there's a tense scene where the ship's owner literally takes a swing at the camera. The audience starts wondering if we're watching *Around The World in Eighty Days* or *The Wreck of the Mary Deare*.

The task of picking an all HIV-positive crew proved no less daunting. Of the dozens of applications received, men and a few women, only nine would make the cut. Hudson, who is seen directly addressing the camera held by his lover, talks out loud about the decisions he faces. "We need a crew that can get along. The hardest part was having to cut people before we left port. You have AIDS, and you're cut from an AIDS boat!"

Hudson frets over a man named Mike, with two strikes against him — an odd personality and full-blown AIDS. Hudson muses, "God, this is so hard. I'm choosing a guy even though I don't like him." Hudson's choice at first appears to be a bad one, and we prepare ourselves for what may be a burial at sea. Mike surprises everybody, and turns out to be the hardest working mate on board.

Rock the Boat's other star is the ship's cook Ted Taylor. A one-time Christian missionary who boasts of twice meeting Mother Teresa, Taylor was recovering from not only HIV, but from the pain of being twice ousted in a small fundamentalist town. Almost boasting of his lack of seagoing skills, Taylor was resigned to his fate in the galley. "I was volunteered. Who else is crazy enough to cook for ten smelly guys five times a day? On a rolling boat with no dish soap?"

The ten days or so at sea start out on a happy note, as shipboard crushes and romances start to emerge. Houston's camera is constantly in everybody's face, and *Rock the Boat* has the flavor of a gay MTV vérité soap opera. Clever use is made of ship-to-land e-mail as a narrative device. As base informs the crew that Hurricane Delores is riding their tail, we see growing anxiety reflected in low-angled shots of the computer operator in Los Angeles. E-mail also serves as a shipboard diary, recording the rising tensions as the Pacific shows its ugly face and the ship's crew chooses sides between the faction led by Captain John Plander, who wants to win the race at all costs, and those represented by project leader Hudson, who just want to be alive when they reach Hawaii. At one point, mutiny seems in the offing, as Captain Plander curses that he will never sail with a bunch of "fags" again.

The lack of planning and relative inexperience of the crew almost prove fatal as the Survivor weathered a series of harrowing "round-ups" — a condition where a speeding sailboat is like a car spinning out of control on ice. The ship goes over on its side and it can founder. The crew is tested to the limits of endurance, alternating catnaps with strenuous duty to keep the mast aloft and ship afloat. Director/Cameraman Houston starts to lose it, too. Weary from lack of sleep, "I made a mistake — losing a halyard without the clutch on. The full force of the spinnaker went running through my hand,

which was sucked into the winch. I'm lucky I didn't lose my fingers."

That this all-gay *Dames at Sea* will end happily is in doubt to the last moment — a tribute to both the scale of the adventure undertaken by Survivor and the filmmaking skills of Houston and Hudson. As they pull into Honolulu harbor, the crew gets a glimpse of several ships that didn't make it across — floating, mastless hulks — the mere ghost of the dreams held by their sponsors and crews. Survivor's glory is reflected in the faces of the relieved and happy crew, happy to thank their "angels" (the names of almost 3,000 deceased PWAs painted along Survivor's hull) and bask in the media coverage, especially of World Cup winner Ted Turner's CNN network.

At the end, we, too, are proud, both of our plucky guys and the irrefutable testimony they offer to the courage and determination of several generations of a community that has braved many an uncharted sea. ▼

Rock the Boat opens Friday, April 30 at San Francisco's Lumiere Theatre.



John Plander, Mike Burrelle, Mike Schmidt, Ted Taylor, and Dennis Boecker in *Rock the Boat*

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DANCE

Cunningham past, present and future

Merce Cunningham-Dance Company at Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley

by Matthew Kennedy

It must be tough being a choreographer today. They must all be pea green with envy at the inventions of Merce Cunningham. After more than fifty years of dancemaking, he can still astound like no one else, and he can still reinvent his own precise mechanical techniques into endless possibilities that fairly take the breath away.

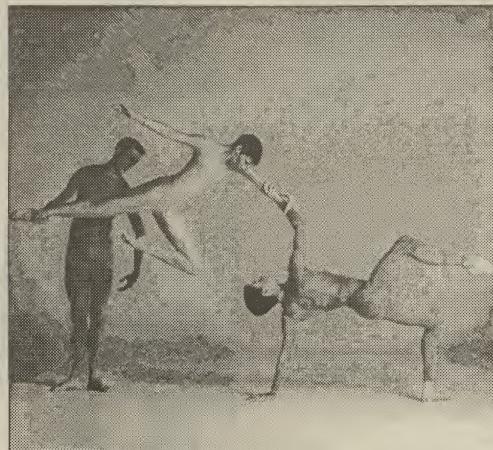
Last weekend, he and his Company lodged at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall for their annual spring residency. The rewards were great. First on the Friday program was *Rune*, a revival of his 1959 dance with decor originally by Robert Rauschenberg. As expected, *Rune* was a revisit to classic Cunningham, dance and music simultaneous but disconnected of any predictable cause and effect. Christian Wolff's lone piano notes were accompanied by crackling, hissing and a few notes from a harmonica. The backdrop of greenery gave way to blue shades as the dancers moved with their usual startling precision and deliberateness. They were given a few uncharacteristic upper body undulations and, if an election were held today, they would easily win the vote for the world's softest landings. They are never less than exquisite soldiers of exactitude.

In a further tribute to his ties to Rauschenberg, Cunningham brought one of his famous *Events* to Berkeley this year. Composed of pieces of other dances brought together in one-of-a-kind ways, this event was dominated by a gorgeous bright Rauschenberg painted collage for a backdrop. The royal purple unitards of the dancers brought attention to the hands and feet, while there was a goodly amount of rolling, slow floor turns and twists. Dancers changed into black jumpsuits and scattered about in silly birdlike

movements that were at humorous odds with the strangely morbid ambiance. Cunningham rarely uses props, but in this *Event* he had his dancers drag each other about on large pieces of cloth, evoking both a magic carpet and the untouchable work of executioners. A lilting, scat-singing female voice was heard, along with something akin to a lunatic transistor radio.

Triple play

The Berkeley engagement was triply blessed with Cunningham's generosity last Friday. An *Event* often takes up a full evening, but he delivered a classic and a world premiere, too. As for the virgin *BIPED*, it was a dance to cherish. It was unveiled to an audience very nearly quivering in unison at its beauty. With a humming, meditative score by protean British composer Gavin Bryars, *BIPED* opens with dancers in metallic shorts and unitards that catch primary colors like a hologram. The stage is divided by scenic designers Shelley Eshkar and Paul Kaiser's lit vertical lines along the



Los Gatos

Members of Merce Cunningham Dance Co. in Event for Berkeley.

back. A thin scrim covers the front, as overhead light fades and returns like the sun peeking through storm clouds.

Cunningham has been playing

with computers and digital technology for years, and his hobby has finally blossomed into something great. Using Character Studio R2, a motion capture software

program, three of his dancers have been transposed into digital images. They become spectral skeletons moving on the scrim, then disappearing behind long shafts of light, shrinking and growing like a vision from the movies. Sometimes they are a cluster of busy dots, sometimes they are a scramble of small squares. Sometimes lines of light descend from the scrim like thin autumn leaves. But Cunningham never indulges his experiments with gimmickry or cuteness. Alongside the virtual dancers, the live action dancers remain compelling under the stagelights.

Each new digital image felt like a gift from above. Amazingly, they appeared as celebrations of dance without being dance. They appeared as magic visions from another world. Overstated, you might say, yet this was no Gene Kelly dancing alongside Jerry the mouse. And forget computers that give us bloodthirsty dinosaurs and grotesque car wrecks. *BIPED* was perhaps the most artistically elegant and eloquent use of digital technology yet. ▼

Moving through upheaval

LINES Contemporary Ballet at YBC

by Aimée Ts'ao

If you are already a fan of LINES Contemporary Ballet or have always been meaning to go, now is the time. Otherwise you will have to wait an entire year until their next home season, as funding cuts have forced them to cancel their fall season. LINES is currently celebrating its 17th year with performances at Yerba Buena

Center for the Arts Theater through May 2, including the world premiere of Artistic Director Alonzo King's *Shostakovich String Quartet*, a reprise of last fall's hit *Who Dressed You Like a Foreigner?*, also choreographed by King to the music of Zakir Hussain, and *Sings and Wonders* from the repertory.

The life of a dance company is similar to the lives of ordinary people. There are the usual milestones: birth, childhood, adoles-

cence, middle age, a decline into old age, and finally death. In addition to the daily ups and downs, there are also lengthy periods of difficulty or smooth sailing. Last fall, the company seemed poised, ready to really take off. Then, suddenly, things changed. In a small company of a dozen dancers, it doesn't take much to throw things off. Three women are no longer dancing with LINES — Summer Lee Rhatigan and Nora Heiber retired, and Melanie Henderson is out on maternity leave. Fortunately, Chiharu Shibata, who originally joined LINES in 1989, returned to the company after a brief stint with the Joffrey Ballet, but veterans Debra Rose and Marina Hotchkiss were left to shoulder most of the artistic load. Al-

though Lauren Porter, promoted from apprentice to company member this season, is a very beautiful dancer, she has yet to embody the nuances that distinguish a LINES dancer.

In the men's department, the situation is worse. Gregory Dawson and Brian Chung are the long-term survivors. Xavier Ferla, who joined the company last fall, is a very impressive dancer who has been able to create his own place in the company. Newcomers Eduardo Cuerto and Christian Burns make admirable attempts to fill the gaps led by Yannis Adoniou's departure, and Ryan Brooke Taylor, although he is no longer a regular member of LINES, flew in to perform in the role he created last

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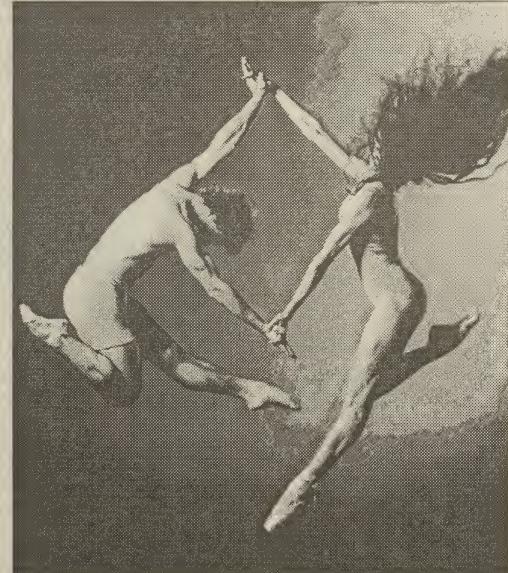
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Mary Sohn

LINES Contemporary Ballet's Xavier Ferla and Debra Rose

DANCE

Swan song for an American ballerina

Evelyn Cisneros retires from SF Ballet

by Stephanie von Buchau

In an area flaming with divas — from Sharon Stone and Frederica von Stade to Robin Williams and Michael Tilson Thomas — no star is currently burning as brightly as that of prima ballerina Evelyn Cisneros. San Francisco Ballet honors the retirement of its senior dancer on Sunday, May 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the War Memorial Opera House with "A Celebration of Dance: Evelyn Cisneros." Cisneros will dance Balanchine's *Rubies*, the Ernesto Nazareth solo, *Confidencias*, that Helgi Tomasson set for her in 1986, and Princess Aurora in the third act of *Sleeping Beauty*.

On Wednesday, May 5, KQED (Channel 9) precedes the tape-delay of Peter Martins' *Sleeping Beauty* production from New York City Ballet with a half-hour television documentary written, directed and produced by Linda Schaller, called "Evelyn Cisneros: Moving On!" Schaller's video is one-third archival performances, some never seen in public, of Cisneros dancing, with the rest divided between following the ballerina through class and rehearsal (including Mark Morris' new *Sandpiper Ballet*) and interviews with Tomasson, Val Caniparoli, Joanna Berman, Tony Randazzo (Cisneros' longtime partner, now retired) and Morris, who remarks that Evelyn has made herself into a quintessential "American ballerina."

Why all this activity surrounding the retirement of a dancer who has starred for SFB so long she's in danger of being taken for granted? First of all, with that blinding smile and queenly air, Cisneros would be difficult to take for granted at any time. And now, nearing her 40s, this Hispanic-American dancer from Southern California wants to start a family with dancer-husband Stephen Legate (one of SFB's best part-

ners); the rigors of maintaining a super-thin ballerina's physique are not conducive to motherhood.

Besides, Cisneros has been dancing for three decades if you consider all those days when she started school at 7:30 a.m., earned free lessons at ballet school by teaching tap dance, took her own classes and then attended rehearsals in Los Angeles at Pacific Ballet Theatre, falling exhausted into bed around midnight. "I couldn't have done it without my mother," Cisneros recalls; that lady, from whom the ballerina gets her dramatic flair, resolutely drove her dance-mad teen all over Southern California, proving that not all dance Moms are a pain in the butt like Mama Rose.

After the drama

In addition to anticipating a well-earned rest and a real private life, Cisneros has been exploring her future, everything from teaching dance and staging ballets by Val Caniparoli (she just mounted his popular *Lambarena* in South Africa) to fundraising (she could see herself in SFB's development department) and community outreach, such as working with Hispanic girls in need of mentoring. This mature, thoughtful approach to life-after-performing is partly a result of the conflicts that arose when the San Francisco Ballet suffered a traumatic upheaval in 1984.

Cisneros was never a dumb bunny like many talented but blank ballerinas, yet she admits that the events that saw SFB codirector Michael Smuin ousted in favor of Helgi Tomasson helped mature her in a hurry. For Cisneros was essentially Smuin's creation. "He gave me so much, and I think that without him I would not be in the position I am today," Cisneros says. When she joined SFB in 1977, Smuin was struck by her individuality and dramatic promise. Always a creator of over-the-top melodramas, he made the

role of the Native American girl violated by brutal white troopers in *A Song for Dead Warriors* specifically for Evelyn. She soared to national prominence when the piece was televised on PBS.

When Smuin's contract was not renewed, Cisneros did not allow her loyalty to the choreographer to spoil her career. Rather than do something stupid like giving impassioned but ill-considered interviews to the press, Cisneros kept her own counsel, worked through the personal distress of losing a mentor in tumultuous circumstances, and tried to live up to Tomasson's exacting classical standards.

This, of course, was the crux of the Smuin departure, and the validity of the claims against his style were proven by the full-length works that Tomasson mounted, *Swan Lake* and *Sleeping Beauty*. In the Smuin era, neither the company nor Cisneros was strong enough technically to sustain these classics. If I may quote from my 1990 review of the *Sleeping Beauty* premiere, which starred Cisneros as Princess Aurora, "The Rose Adagio, with its eight one-toe balances, may be the pinnacle of Cisneros' career in San Francisco. She was flawless, holding those balances until the audience began to squeal with pleasure."

Asked if all that turmoil was good for her personally or for her career, Cisneros reflects, "We are meant to grow and develop. I am



Mary Sanj

Evelyn Cisneros in *Sleeping Beauty* (1990)

who I am because of those experiences, however painful they may have been at the time. I could have approached them negatively, but I really believe that everything is meant to happen the way it does, and you never get more put on your plate than you can handle."

She goes on, laughing. "I don't feel like an old lady now, yet I have protective, maternal feelings for those youngsters in the company whom I've watched literally grow up from little kids in *Nutcracker*. If I can help them with advice or just by listening to their dreams

and troubles, I want to do it. I feel I have a responsibility to that generation, to pass on what I've learned, not just about dancing."

We'll miss Evelyn Cisneros on stage, but I don't think she's going very far away from her beloved San Francisco Ballet. ▼

SF Ballet presents Evelyn Cisneros: A Celebration of Dance on Sunday, May 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the War Memorial Opera House. For tickets, \$25-\$150, call 865-2000.

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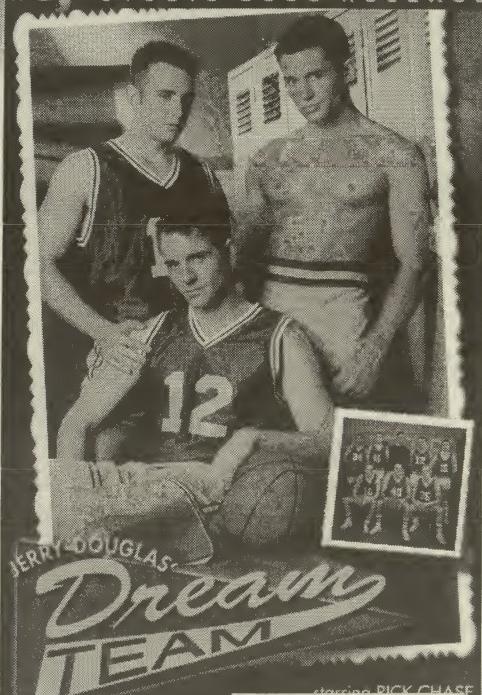
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Diva supreme in all her glory

by Tavo Amador

Maria Callas, Sacred Monster by Stelios Galatopoulos; Simon & Schuster, \$35

If a newcomer to opera, knowing nothing about its current or former divas, walked into a music store and surveyed the offerings, she would conclude that Maria Callas was the biggest star singing today. Only if this neophyte read the compact disc labels would she realize that the recordings had been made three or four decades ago.

Callas died in 1977, not yet 54 years old. Except for an ill-advised concert tour with Giuseppe di Stefano in 1973-74, she had not sung publicly since 1965. Yet the impact she had on opera was and remains huge. She is the touchstone against which subsequent sopranos have been compared. The circumstances of her life — the feuds with opera houses, the rivalry with Renata Tebaldi, the battles with her mother, the affair with Aristotle Onassis, the premature decline in her vocal gifts, and the fanaticism of her fans — are the stuff of melodrama and have been so portrayed by Terrence McNally in two plays, *Master Class* and *The Lisbon Traviata*.

Since her death, several tomes of biographies, quasi-autobiographies, coffee table volumes, and

others providing details about each performance and recording have been published. Now comes Stelios Galatopoulos' *Maria Callas, Sacred Monster*, which combines the best of the previous books and benefits from the author's long friendship with Callas, their conversations concerning her art and life, and his personal recollections of her performances.

Born in New York to Greek immigrant parents, she returned with her family to the ancestral homeland, studied singing at the Athens Conservatory, made her debut at 15 as Santozza in *Cavalleria Rusticana*, struggled financially during the Nazi occupation of Greece, but let nothing interfere with her training.

Tall but overweight, possessing a huge voice with a two-and-one-half octave range, she had the good fortune to study with retired Spanish diva Elvira de Hidalgo, who recognized that her pupil had a rare gift: a dramatic soprano *d'agilita* — that is, a big voice with the flexibility and agility to sing *bel canto*. The importance of de Hidalgo, among the last classically trained singers, can not be overstated: she passed on to Callas the techniques used by such legendary 19th-century divas as Giudetta Pasta (the original *Norma*) and Maria Malibran.

Beyond canary roles

Callas began by singing heavy



Cecil Beaton/Satellite London

roles like Ponchielli's *La Gioconda* (her 1947 debut at Verona) and Wagner's *Isolde*. But in 1949, shortly after a successful *Isolde*, she stunned the Italian opera world by learning in short order the role of Elvira in Bellini's *I Puritani*, creating a sensation at Venice's La Fenice. Not since Lotte Lehmann had a singer shown such range in two extraordinarily demanding but very different parts. Callas not only sang the complex coloratura role of Elvira, she acted it with remarkable insight and intensity, turning what

had become a "canary" show-off part into potent drama. Post-World War II opera would never be the same again.

Under the guidance of her husband, industrialist Giovanni Battista Meneghini, she accepted engagements in Mexico City, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, and throughout Italy, but set her sites on Milan's La Scala, where the young, velvet-voiced Renata Tebaldi was creating a sensation in *Aida* and *verismo* roles like *Maddalena* in *Andrea Chénier*. In fact, Callas replaced an ailing Tebaldi for two performances of *Aida*, but La Scala's general administrator, Antonio Ghiringhelli, did not like her and kept delaying her "official" debut.

Callas prevailed, opening the 1951-52 La Scala season as Elena in Verdi's *I Vespri Siciliani*, dazzling the Milanese with her astonishing technique and dramatic power. Tebaldi's position as Queen of La Scala had been challenged, and a small coterie of her admirers, known as *Tebaldinians*, would hiss Callas from the far balconies, although they were drowned out by the rest of the wildly cheering audience. Naturally, Callas' devotees responded in kind. (Can you imagine such fanaticism today? Alas, no!)

Callas herself dismissed the feud, correctly saying that until Tebaldi had sung roles like *Norma* and *Medea*, as well as the roles they had in common (*Aida*, *Maddalena*, *Tosca*), the comparisons were silly. However, after Tebaldi's failure as Violetta in *La Traviata* (the first act *fioritura* defeated her), Callas insisted that La Scala mount a new production of Verdi's classic for her, which they did and in which she had an unqualified triumph.

Galatopoulos' chronicles Callas' glory years in the '50s and early '60s, discusses the astonishing weight loss that transformed her from a coarse-looking woman to a glamorous beauty; talks candidly about the beginning of her vocal problems in 1959, the collapse of her voice in the 1960s, and her often public fights with her horrifying mother; and puts to rest the rumors of her homophobia. The last centered around the openly gay Luchino Visconti, whose productions at La Scala showcased Callas as nothing else ever did. It was not his homosexuality that she disliked on a personal level, but his vulgarity and coarseness. Hence, her reluctance to socialize with him.

The author also puts the entire Onassis affair in perspective, proving that Callas did not sacrifice her career for him, and demolishing Arianna Stassinopoulos' (now Huffington) spurious claim that he forced her to abort their child.

The book has a complete discography and a chronology of her performances, and is lavishly illustrated, showing Callas in virtually every role she sang. Its only disappointment is in not living up to the subtitle: except for her (understandable) fury in dealing with her mother, Callas is never shown as a monster. Instead, we meet a dedicated artist who, like most of us, did not always behave perfectly. She comes across as candid, reasonable, ambitious, proud, and warm, if essentially lonely.

Galatopoulos makes her less the melodramatic diva of myth and more of a real woman, which is quite an achievement. ▼

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LINES

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fall in *Who Dressed You Like a Foreigner?* It is certainly a credit to the entire company and Alonso King that the performance I saw this past weekend succeeded as much as it did despite such upheaval. The dancers themselves are physically gorgeous. The women, with their long legs, arched feet, sculpted faces and sinewy arms, and the men, with their chiseled torsos and elegant lines, are all strong dancers who should be seen just for the joy of seeing beautiful dancers.

Off balance

King's *Shostakovich String Quartet*, to music of the same name, No. 15, Opus 144, and lighting by Lisa Pinkham, perhaps unconsciously reflects the current state of the company. It opens with a solo for Xavier Ferla, stretching until he falls off balance. He is joined by Marina Hotchkiss and Lauren Porter, who seem to watch him with a certain detachment. Then the two women dance with each other while ignoring Ferla. When they finally acknowledge him, it is to restrain and bully him a bit.

Debra Rose then has a solo deep with insight into King's unique vocabulary. She is the Rosetta stone, a pivotal translator, making sense of what could easily seem to be gratuitous movement. After dancing with LINES for 15 years, Rose has evolved into a dancer who can meld King's idiosyncrasies and her own personal quirks into a seamless synthesis of the choreographer's intention and the dancer's interpretation.

The peak of this piece is a pas de deux danced by Chiharu Shiba-ta and Brian Chung. Both dancers' sensitivity to creating, extending and even twisting lines produces a stunning sculptural intertwining. The final section is for Eduardo Cuerto, Hotchkiss, Maurya Kerr, Kathleen Mitchell, Porter and Rose. Although the combination of one man and five women would normally suggest the man as the center with surrounding corps de ballet, refreshingly this is not the case. Instead, they are six equals who alternate dancing solos with being part of the group. Each has a chance to show her own particular strengths, while still retaining part of the whole. The scenic design was in that spare postmodern vein, with costumes in almost sickly hues of pale green,

next page ▶

MUSIC

French varietal

Singer Julien Clerc's first American tour

by Tony Montague

It was May 1968 — a month of great social and political upheaval in France, and in Paris particularly, as students took to the streets to challenge the government of Charles de Gaulle. At the very time that paving stones in the Latin Quarter were being ripped up to build barricades, a young singer from the suburbs brought out his first 45 rpm record. His debut should have been eclipsed by the momentous events of the day; instead, one line from the song — "Tabolirai l'ennui" (I'll abolish boredom) — seemed to embody the very spirit of the protest. *La Cavalerie* received major radio play, and the career of Julien Clerc was launched.

Within a few weeks, the revolt had fizzled out. The students were back in class, the workers in their factories — but Clerc had at least permanently abolished boredom in his own life. He would soon perform at the Olympia, France's premier concert hall; put out a string of hit singles; and be given a leading role in the Paris production of the rock musical *Hair*. A big fan of the Beatles and English pop, Clerc became associated with the counterculture. As a singer, however, he was rooted in the world of French variété (a blend of pop and the *chansonner* tradition of Jacques Brel and Edith Piaf).

The luxuriant brown locks and the flared pants are long gone, but 'Juju,' as he is affectionately known by his legions of fans, has lasted. His romantic and beautifully-crafted songs have made Clerc one of France's most popular recording artists of all time, and a huge national heartthrob. And Clerc has admirers in high places. In 1994, he was invited by François Mitterrand to perform at the Elysée Palace, where the former French president obliquely remarked: "You don't spread yourself too thinly, that's good."

"I think he felt that, like certain politicians, I've been able to maintain my focus — even if, at times, that's meant facing unpopularity," explains the genial Clerc, from the line from *Salon-de-Provence*, near Marseille. "The external signs of success have never mattered much. What does matter to me ultimately is to be loved for the quality of my music. I've always tried to be a free man with respect to the image people might have of me. My musical tastes are very eclectic, and my records reflect that."

LINES

◀ previous page

yellow and gray against a mustard gold background and lighting that made their skin almost match, or else appear too pink. I wish that there had been enough funds to provide live music, which always adds immeasurably to any performance.

As in last season, *Who Dressed You...?* was the evening's high point, except for some very untogether ensemble work by the men. The piece proves once again that dancers need a number of performances to explore and polish their roles. Ryan Brooke Taylor, in spite of jet lag and little rehearsal, dances with a focused sensuality that is instantly engaging. Gregory Dawson and Ferla are beautiful,



Julien Clerc

Very Veloso

It's hard to find an English equivalent to Julien Clerc. David Bowie comes to mind, though there are significant differences — Clerc is not a rocker, though he's played and written his share of rock music. He's closer to a figure such as Latin tropicalismo star Caetano Veloso, who also composes memorable melodies in a popular vein. But, unlike the poetic Veloso (an artist he greatly respects), Clerc never writes his own lyrics. "Unfortunately I don't have that talent," Clerc laments. "My tunes always await someone else's words. It's actually a great pleasure for me to see what they've put to my music."

The inability to write lyrics may ironically be one of the secrets of Clerc's longevity as a musician. He's able to stay fresh by drawing on a roster of the finest lyricists currently working in France — Etienne Roda-Gil, Jean-Loup [sic] Dabadié, David McNeil, Françoise Hardy, and others. And his most recent album, simply entitled *Julien*, even features a poem written in the early 19th century by poetess Marceline Desbordes-Valmore, set to music. Asked what he looks for in a lyricist, he responds: "For him to surprise me," repeating the words twice for emphasis.

Clerc has tried singing in English, but felt the experiment was not a success. "When I was signed up by Virgin [his present record company], Richard Branson said to me: 'It's too bad you were born French' — a charming remark!" recalls Clerc, with a laugh. "What he meant was that if I'd been born an Anglophone, my career as a singer would have enjoyed more of a global dimension. He said I should try doing something in English. It

was a very difficult experience for me. I speak the language reasonably well, but whereas if I read French lyrics I can tell quickly if they're good or bad — I can appreciate the visible and the invisible subtleties — I'm incapable of doing that with English lyrics. I understood once and for all that you must keep to your own tongue."

So when Clerc comes to San Francisco to play at the Alliance Française on Friday, April 30, he'll be singing in French only. But the expressive qualities of his music and his voice, with its characteristic vibrato, and his clarity of articulation should break down any language barriers.

It will be the 51-year-old artist's first visit to the United States and English Canada. And whereas he normally tours with a full band, Clerc — who plays piano on some numbers — will just have two accompanists. "I've never played in such an intimate setting, and I'm really looking forward to it," Clerc confides. "What I really value as a performer is contact with my audience. All the important things that have happened to me in life have come from being onstage, so I'm really looking forward to this tour. My only hope is that I'll be able to reach people — and that I'll be invited back. Oh, and I'm also keen to make a better acquaintance with your West Coast wines — good wine helps to abolish boredom, too!" ▼

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon



A tapir at the San Francisco Zoo.

Zoo blues

Latin America and I have had a long love affair. The first time I ventured anywhere on my own was to the Andes. I've lived at times in Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia. As an explorer and naturalist (*not* a naturalist, though I'm not averse to shedding clothes outdoors), I've beheld Andean condors from just a few feet away on the coast of Peru; played with a pet capybara in an Amazonian village, and gone night-stalking for creatures high in the canopy of a virgin rainforest.

I'm glad none of those animals were confined to zoos. Zoos depress me. Captive animals depress me (I confess I used to keep reptiles captive as a kid).

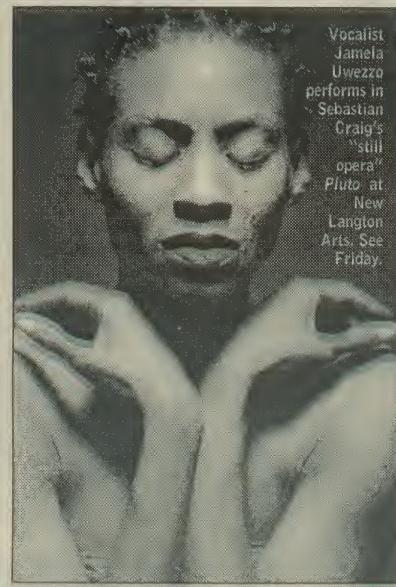
The extinction of species depresses me more. I've seen habitats lost to development world-wide. I've written countless articles on the destruction of nature, the facts of which depressed me so much I decided to take up a whole new writing career (which explains why I'm here at the B.A.R.).

While I may not like zoos very much, I've come to respect the good ones, those with a sincere dedication to harboring threatened and endangered species. That's why I'm alerting you now to the new exhibit opening at the San Francisco Zoo, "Bridge to the South," which celebrates the rich biodiversity of Latin America. A 19,000-square-foot mixed-species exhibit features many of Latin America's indigenous wildlife, including a giant anteater, a rare Baird's tapir, capybaras and "Oscar," a 46-year-old Andean condor.

Most modern zoos are marketed as entertainments for the whole family (and visiting them can be screaming-kid hell). In this, they echo the gross practices observed by megalomaniacal kings and caliphs in days of yore, who used to display exotic animals as symbols of wealth and might.

But the real value of zoos in modern times, apart from limited scientific research and a modicum of public education, is to serve asarks at a time when nature is everywhere under attack. As habitats are depleted, leaving species nowhere to go, zoos are a last refuge. One hopes that someday the captive animals or their descendants might be released to newly restored habitat. That's a huge wish, but one worth keeping. ▼

The San Francisco Zoo is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, located at Sloat Blvd. at the Pacific Ocean. For more info, phone 753-7080.



Vocalist
Jamela
Uwezzo
performs in
Sebastian
Craig's
"still
opera"
Pluto at
New
Langton
Arts. See
Friday.

pregnant lover. She cannot ascend to heaven until she confronts him in hell. \$12 (\$10 students/seniors). 8pm. 1246 Folsom St. (btwn. 8th & 9th). 626-5416.

Sat

Dolores Park

"Reclaim May Day/Reclaim San Francisco," a giant festival and street procession celebrating International Workers Day and the ancient Celtic holiday Beltane. Featuring a picnic, May Pole Dance, the SF Mime Troup, Art & Revolution Convergence, a 100-ft. long graffiti mural, Aztec dancers, Hip Hop, folk music, spoken word, a pageant with 15-ft. tall puppets, and much more. The event culminates in a street procession with puppets, music, dance and singing. Valet bike parking by the SF Bike Coalition. Supported by Rainbow Grocery. 11am-4:30pm. Info: 339-7801.

Strybing Arboretum

Northern California's largest plant sale, the 32nd Annual Spring Sale. More than 20,000 exceptional plants, many of which are unavailable from local nurseries and garden centers, offered for reasonable prices. All suitable for Bay Area growing. Succulents, cacti, exotic vines, heritage roses, Australian shrubs, and much more. Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Gardens, Ninth Ave. at Lincoln Way, Golden Gate Park. Info: 661-3090.

Josie's Cabaret

Helen Moulder and Rose Beauchamp perform in *The Legend Returns*, an opera spoof. About a flamboyant opera star and her slightly frustrated accompanist. Featuring material "from Verdi to virginity, from contralto to castrati — a very eunuch experience!" Directed by Michael Wilson. \$15. (\$12 Sun.). Thru 5/16. 3583 16th St. (at 17th & Mariposa). 399-1809.

New Langton Arts

Composer and producer Sebastian Robin Craig premieres his new work, *Pluto*, a "still opera" (minus elaborate stage sets and costumes) following the story of a man sent to hell for killing his



Dance photo-
graphs by
Andy Mogg will
be on exhibit at
Mad Magda's.
See Monday.

ginning today, most available for viewing in the library or home. The collection includes many short, artsy, experimental or otherwise marginalized films and videos by up-and-coming filmmakers, previously obtainable only from Frameline. San Francisco Public Library, Main Branch, Civic Center.

Public Library, Harvey Milk Branch

On display: an exhibit of classic gay images presented in the straight and gay media from 1938 to present. Includes photos from publications such as *Male*, a 1950s magazine, and editions of *Look*, *Time*, and *Newsweek*. Plus an examination of how Pride marches, once struggled for, are now presented in the media as events to be endured. Thru June 30. SF Public Library, Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Memorial branch.

SF Mystery Bookstore

Book launch party: Author Steven Saylor discusses *Rubicon*, the eighth in his Roman mystery series featuring Gordianus the Finder, with intrigues involving kidnapping, murder, betrayal, and the threat of civil war. If Caesar and Pompey can't stop fighting, things could get really ugly. With Italian wines, Italian finger foods, and Italians. Free. 2-3pm. 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

ATA Gallery

Other Cinema showcases "Mayday Mayhem," with films about political pranks, satirical street theater, and class war. They depict the Biotic Baking Brigade's "in your face" pieing; a "pukefest" demonstration against VP Dan Quayle; a covert action to rename a street after Malcolm X, and various other subversions. \$5. 8:30pm. Artists' Television Access, 992 Valencia St. 824-3890.

Telegraph Ave., Berkely

The Berkeley World Music Festival, featuring Conjunto Céspedes (an Afro-Cuban folkloric ensemble), the West African Highlife Band, Ali Khan (traditional Pakistani

Qawali songs combined with power pop/rock), and the California Cajun Orchestra. All Telegraph Ave. shops and restaurants will be joining the festivities. Part of the Berkeley Festival of the Arts. Free. Noon-6pm. Telegraph Ave. & Durant, Berkeley. Info: (510) 649-9500.

Herbst Theatre
"Feygelah Schmegelah," the second annual evening of queer Jewish Humor, presented by Kung Pao Kosher Comedy. Featuing the Kinsey Sicks, lesbian comic Michele Balan, Lynne Jassem of Step-Fire Tap Dance Theatre, and hostess/comedian Lisa Geduldig. Partial proceeds benefit The Holocaust Center of Northern California's "Lesbian & The Holocaust" project. \$18-\$20 advance; \$20-\$22 door. 401 Van Ness Ave (at McAllister). Tel: 392-4400. Info: 522-3737.

The Giraffe

Kitty Glamour's 40th Birthday Bash, presented by Dana Taylor, Peter Messina, Ken and Duffy. Hors d'oeuvres and no-host bar. Party begins 9pm; show at 10pm. 1131 Polk St. (btwn. Sutter & Post). Info: Dana at 431-8829, ext 4.

Futura

Cinco de Mayo celebration, starring BMG recording artists Mecate, plus the 10-piece band Mariachi Mexicanismo, featuring Celina Magaña. With DJs Rubin and Eduardo. Win Oscar de la Hoya's autographed boxing gloves. Free CDs & t-shirts. Balcony appetizers. Go-go dancers. Hosted by Arianna. \$12 cover. 10pm-3am+. 21+ w/ID. 174 King St. 665-6715.

Sun

Mission District

Cinco de Mayo street parade and celebration, an extravagant display of Latino pride and heritage. More than 60 contingents will march down Mission St. Departs 10am at 24th & Bryant streets; con-



"The Manufacture of Headless Babies" by Michael Purcell, at Sweet Inspiration. See Thursday.

cludes at 14th & Harrison. Produced by Mission Economic Cultural Assn.

A Different Light

Intergenerational Writing Group, coordinated by George Birnisa, sponsored by New Leaf's Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders. Featuring writers from 25 to 80. Free. 3:30pm. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

EroSpirit Research Institute

"This Is My Body Electric," with Joseph Kramer. A choreographed 3-hour group meditation involving movement, intention, rhythmic breathing, sound and massage (no nudity or sexual contact). For men only. Benefits Q-Spirit. \$25. 4-7pm. Castro location. 281-9377.

Dance Mission Theater

Open rehearsal: "Industrial Evolution," a dance performance based in part on the "Unabomber Manifesto." It examines what happens when internal and external conflict drive us to a breaking point. Choreographed by Transit artistic director M. Koob. Free. 11am-2pm (with time each hour for dialogue with audience). 3316 24th St. (at Mission). Info: 273-5890.

Mon

GLOE

Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders and Planning for Elders in Central City host a Monday-night Senior Survival Series beginning today. Designed to assist gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender seniors discover their rights, the services they are entitled to, and the benefits they deserve. Free. 1-4pm. Thru 5/24. 145 Guerrero St. (near Market & Duboce). Register: 255-2937, ext. 350.

Café DuNord

"From the Mouths of Babes: Women of Comedy," featuring comedians Sheila Wolf (NYC), Bridget Schwartz (SF), and Sabrina Matthews (LA). Emceed by Page Hurnitz. Off the wall; anything but boring. \$10 door. 7:30pm.

Mad Magda's

Opening reception: Photography by Andy Mogg. An exhibit of imagery Mogg created working with dance companies. The local dance community has embraced Mogg with open arms, allowing him the opportunity to capture rare dance moments on film. Free. 7-9pm. Mad Magda's Russian Tea Room, 579 Hayes St. 864-7654.

Tue

Café DuNord

The alluring Veronica Klaus



(Latest CD: "All That I Want") celebrates her 35th birthday with her All Star Band in a special night of soulful cabaret. Special guests Hot Pursuit add vocals. \$7. 9pm. 21+ w/d. 2170 Market St. 861-5016.

Wed

A Different Light

SF State University teacher Peter Weltner reads from his new book, *How the Body Prays* (Graywolf Press). Free. 7:30pm.

Thu

Theatre Rhinoceros

Preview: "Fed Up: A Cannibal's Own Story," a new play by Ricardo A. Bracho, directed by Reginald McDonald. A burlesque, love story, and exorcism in two acts, featuring "4 Black & Brown Brothas plus 1 Dead White Writer and an ancient Colored Woman Witch." Four gay men of color take a magical trip from San Francisco down the coast and encounter a surreal gang of cannibals who look much like themselves. \$12-\$20. 8pm. Also 5/7; regular run

opens 5/8. 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Sweet Inspiration

Opening reception: "Salutations, S. Dali," a solo exhibit of more than 20 new paintings by local artist Michael Purcell. His fantasy/surreal works pay tribute to surrealist master Salvador Dali, whose art inspired Purcell to take up painting. 2239 Market St. Info: 565-0925.

Exit Theatre — stage left

The Chameleon Theatre Company presents *Female Transport*, a play by Steve Goch. It traces the voyage of six female convicts from the slums of London to the penal colonies of Sydney, Australia in the early 1800s. Directed by Walter Niegadlik. \$12 (\$10 students). 156 Eddy St. 260-4161.

Exit Theatre — main stage

Preview: "The Demon Pope," a fable for the new millennium, directed by John Ferreira, written by Barry J. Weir. About a young monk in the late 900s who makes a deal with Lucifer; 30 years later, when the monk is an old Pope, Lucifer returns to collect. Featuring Diana Brown as the exiled angel Lucifer. \$6. 8pm. Also on 5/7. Regular run opens 5/8; thru 5/29. Reservations: 564-1196.

Randall Museum Theatre

Young People's Teen Musical Theatre Company presents "The '90s on Broadway," a revue featuring musical numbers from shows that opened on Broadway in the '90s. Sponsored by the SF Recreation and Park Dept. \$7 adults; \$6 seniors/students. 9pm. Thru 5/8. Also 2pm on 5/9. 199 Museum Way (off Roosevelt).

A Different Light

"The Dark Shade of Our Desire: Queer People of Color/Mixed Blood Reading Series," featuring Moewasa Sagapolutele, Morningstar Vancil, Vince Crisostomo, Laughing Coyote, and Nacona Fierro. Free. 7:30pm.

Berkeley Community Theater

"An Evening with Salman Rushdie." The author of *The Satanic Verses* reads from his latest book, *The Ground Beneath Her Feet*, and converses with Vijaya Nagarajan, who teaches Asian Religions at USF. \$12. 7:30pm. Berkeley High School Campus, Alston Way & Milvia (near downtown Berkeley BART). Tix from City Box Office (415-392-4400), BASS, and local bookstores (in SF: City Lights, Modern Times, A Clean Well-Lighted etc.). Info: (510) 848-6767, ext. 611.

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

**Mark Mardon
Out & About**
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA
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Deadline is the Friday before issue date.



"Picasso," by Dora Maar, on exhibit at Robert Koch Gallery. See Friday.

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Triumph in Washington

by Mister Marcus

The tenth edition of the American Brotherhood Weekend competition — with contenders for American Leatherman, Leatherwoman and Leatherboy titles — took center stage in Washington, DC last weekend amid the swirling madness of the NATO summit and celebration, which was vying for everyone else's attention.

Some 17 leather hopefuls performed elaborate and imaginative fanatasies on stage at the ABW, gave speeches, endured the probing of seasoned judges, and generally gave the audience a show that contained all the elements of IML, IMSL and IM Drummer events — geared for American contenders only.

As head judge, Viola Johnson wasted no time getting down to business, and I had a great time judging with George Hester of New Orleans, Thom Dombrowski of Chicago, Lenny Broberg of San Francisco, Mark Frazier of Dallas, the outgoing American Leatherboy Terry Sapp and outgoing American Leatherwoman Mercea Strecker.

It was an exhilarating experience in which brother/sister-hood and respect for other people's self expression prevailed in the minds of participants and spectators alike. As the master of ceremonies for the Saturday and Sunday afternoon shows, Frank Nowicki was clearly in his element, commanding the attention of close to 300 people in the audience, almost half of whom were title holders, both past and present.

Most, if not all, of the leather world luminaries were there. Our own Mr. SF Leather Werner Tillinger was very much in evidence throughout, and Intl. Mr. Drummer Herve Bernard flew in from Paris for the affair. But IML Tony Mills honored a previous commitment to perform emcee duties at the Mr. Missouri Leather Contest in St. Louis (at my deadline, I had not received the results of that competition), so was necessarily absent.

Again this year, choosing the American Leather boy was a formidable task, as was choosing winners for the other two titles. Yet the end results seemed to please everyone, and the crowds



Mister Marcus

The ABW '99 winners in Washington, D.C. last weekend were (L to R) Schelli Dittmann, American Leatherwoman; Scott Riekofski, American Leatherman; and Jerry Acosta, American Leatherboy.

were enthusiastic both days.

Seven contestants each vied for both the Leatherman and Leatherboy titles. In the men category, the contenders were Don Cherkis (Bethlehem, Pennsylvania); Mike Brewer (Albany, New York); Mark Fish (Brunswick, Maine — and a real cutie); Scott Vincent (a porn star from Boston); Joe Boynton (Chicago); Scott

Riekofski (Philadelphia); and Kyle Fitzgerald (Washington, DC). Sadly, no California contestants entered any of the contests.

The seven boys (some of them, in fact, females) were Paul Briggs (Syracuse, New York); Darryl LaFleche (Worcester, Mass.); Patrick Chees (Cleveland, Ohio); Cheryl "Hoops" Hooper (Orlando, Florida); Paksen Burrell (Denver); Jerry Acosta (Shelburne, Vermont); and Erik Leiff (Philadelphia).

During the proceedings, Viola Johnson, Queen Cougar and Jill Carter presented their Unsung Hero Award to Daniel Premack, formerly of Chicago, for his dedi-

cated service as a den boy at several past IML contests.

Only three women contestants took part in the female category: Larissa Sims (Chicago); Schelli Dittmann (Adelphi, Maryland); and Heather Chase (Troy, NY).

Judging these contests was no easy chore. All the contestants came well prepared, a fact that was amply evident. It was heartening and inspiring to see the level of involvement each had with fundraising activity and their knowledge of leather history. Even better, all were imbued with a sense of respect for their peers and the "old guard." With this attitude abundantly on display in this particular group of contestants, it bodes well for the future. Hopefully generations in the leather nation will not have to expend energy dealing with racism, disrespect, and other unfavorable aspects of human interaction both in and out of their chosen lifestyle.

For those relinquishing their titles this year, it was a touching moment. Both Terry Sapp and Mercea Strecker did an honorable and outstanding job with the *next page* ▶

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, April 30 — May 2

Mr. Pennsylvania Drummer & Drummer Boy will be chosen at festivities at the Bike Stop in Philly. Scott Riekofski and Ryan Goldner step aside for their successors.

In Utica, NY, the Utica Tri's celebrate their 13th anniversary with a weekend of partying, food and brotherhood.

Sunday, May 2

Cal Eagles MC annual Cinco de Mayo beer distribution party at The Eagle, 1500-1800, for \$8. Call 267-0056 for details.

Golden Dildeaux Award winner Ernestine presents a raunchy version of The Dating Game, at Daddy's, 1600-1900, with a \$7 beer sop. Emperor TJ auctions off Mr. SFL Werner Tillinger, Mr. Powerhouse Leather BJ, and "Mama" Reinhardt. Sounds like winner to me. Hey, it's a liquid diet. Swill!

Wednesday, May 5

The Edge Bar celebrates its 8th anniversary all day today and tonight. At my deadline, no details had

been furnished.

Leathermen's Discussion Group, 1930 hours, at Club Eros. Tonight's topic will dwell on impressions of the Leather Leadership Conference held two weekends ago. Free.

Thursday, May 6

Only two more spots to fill in the 2000 Bare Chest Calendar. Tonight, Mr. November will be chosen beginning at 2130. The judges for this one are Andy Rose, B.A.R. News Editor Mike Salinas, and Mr. Nov. '99 Bauke Ylstra. Win \$100, fame, fortune and a spot on the Millennium Calendar.

Big Basket Contest at The Edge. Danny Williams will terrorize the troops, and every size queen in town will be there, cameras in hand. Hi, Old Bag!

Weekend, May 8 — 9

Cal Eagles overnighter to Morro Bay, with fees ranging from \$55 to \$130, including hospitality suite, open bar, Saturday banquet, and Sunday continental breakfast. For details, call 267-0560 or email CalEagles@Blackiris.com.

PORN

Bonerama

by John F. Karr

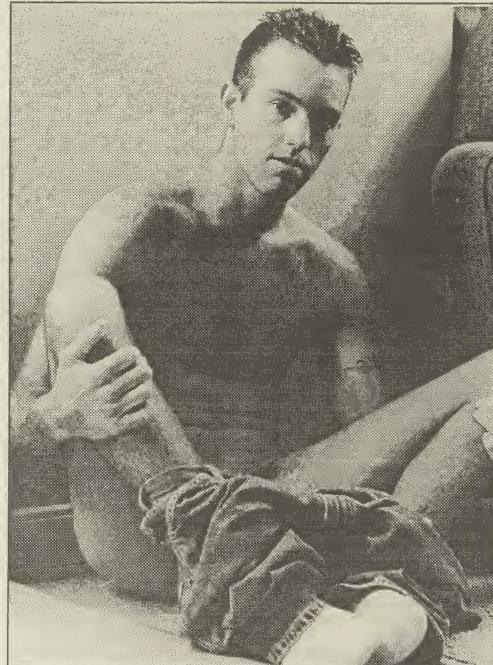
Sure, I was enthusiastic about the new releases from Satyr Productions, the offspring of Titan Media. Both *Chapters* (reviewed in the April 1 B.A.R.) and now *Stuffed* are handsomely videographed and elegantly crafted videos.

But as accomplished as these videos' technical achievements may be, it's the mesmerizing call of their sexuality which rocks me down to some deeply rooted place. The sequences in *Stuffed* exhibit a nearly mystical cock consciousness that far transcends the usual porn fare. Any fool can aim a videocamera at a dick entering an asshole, and many have. But few can make it seem like a transformative act, and that's just what directors Dennis Bell and Brian Mills have done in not one, but several sequences of *Stuffed*.

Stuffed is a cockland catharsis, where a viewer's identification lies not with a character in a story, or with a performer so humpy you want to be him or be had by him, but with cock itself. It subverts thought, touching some deep and primal homo ethos on a level that's nearly spiritual.

In at least two of the scenes of *Stuffed*, the stars come together not as two guys who have been told to get it on by a director in a hurry to get to the money shot, but as two gay sexualists who seek to engage the homo mystique within each other. This couldn't have been accidental, and must have been carefully planned by the directors and their cast. If I appreciate the result, I'm even more impressed by the mindset behind it: there is in *Stuffed* a valuing of gay sex as something more than a commodity, and a respect for the viewer as something more than a purchaser.

Well, enough mumbo jumbo. This is the video that makes Ben Damon's stardom, and as *Stuffed* opens, he's worshipping his big ole hard-on by the side of a pool. As his name implies, the youngster combines the best attributes of both his namesakes: Matt Damon's open and sunny boyishness, with Ben Affleck's hard and sturdy, silent masculinity. Damon has been seen in several videos before this, but never with this effectiveness. Directors Bell and Mills have capitalized on the boy's determined underbite, his dazzlingly white teeth, and his meltingly blue eyes. With warm glints, the sun dances on his copper-colored

Ben Damon in *Stuffed*

body hair. His firm balls sit atop a bronzed groin, and he gazes with affection at his superbly hard cock, transfixed by his lengthy erection. But wait: as a happy grin breaks his butch mask, and his disarming dimples appear, the stud becomes a pup. Then you suddenly see he's got freckles, too, and these heretofore undocumented endearments demolish your heart. Future Stud of America in a manboy's body? You bet.

He's being watched from a bedroom window by new star Jeff Halsey, a muscled slab of sinewy handsomeness. Halsey, an undistinguished member of a group scene in *Chapters*, emerges here a leading man. With his own rigid tool at hand, Halsey and Damon engage in some dynamite cock play, flaunting their glory for each other, but even more so for themselves — just a couple of guys entranced with their cocks. Maintaining the intense mood, the scene escalates to cocksucking, rimming, and fucking. I could really go on here, but let me just point out that although he's a boy, Damon yields just like a man; no passive bottom this child. And what shots there are of Halsey's

cock popping in and out, Damon's ass lips pulling taut on the sliding cock.

The other sequences of *Stuffed* worship cock as well. Dark-skinned Jack Simmons is contrasted with redhead Mark Hamill, and an Afro-American and Latino mix pairs Troy Carrigan with Tony Bullit for the video's finale. It's preceded by a strong scene in which the juicy, hunky Latin stud Vince Bandero lures hefty, tattooed hunk David Bradley into a warehouse where, in some more of that patented Satyr cock worship, they wave their wands around for each other before making physical contact. Bandero's got a mammoth cock and Bradley's got a bruiser of a bodybuilder's physique, with smartly shaved pubes.

Recap: What do I like best about *Stuffed*? The handsome and talented cast? The emergence of new directors, their subtle linkage of the scenes, technical prowess, and the excellent music by Rock Hard they've provided as underscoring to natural sounds? Sure, I like all that. But what I like most is that the guys are really into their boners. ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

tles they were given a year ago. Their stepping aside speeches were of a thankful nature, acknowledging all who made the year bearable, inspirational and meaningful. Yes there were tears in almost everyone's eyes.

Building bridges and respect for others predominated all weekend. Any person truly of the leather persuasion would have responded as we all did. It was about giving credit where credit is due.

After the presentations and judging, the moment of truth arrived shortly before 1730 hours on Sunday. In the boy category, it was a tie for the brotherhood award between Patrick and Paksen. The second runner-up was Erik Leif; the first runner-up was Paksen Burrell and the 1999

American Leatherboy is Jerry Acosta.

For the women, the second runner-up was Larissa; the first runner-up was Heather, and American Leatherwoman 1999 is Schelli Dittmann. Larissa won the sisterhood award. Bravo!

For the men, it was a tough call no matter how you look at it. When the tallies were counted, the second runner-up was Joe Boynton; the first runner-up was Ky Fitzgerald, and American Leatherman 1999 is Scott Reikofski (who will be stepping down next week as Mr. Pennsylvania Drummer in Philly).

The grand finale was a rush to the stage, hundreds of flash bulbs popping, squeals of delight, moans from the losers, and another leather celebration in the finest tradition anyone would be proud of.

Kudos to Jim Cobb, Roger

Fleming and Vern Stewart; the leather/SM community appreciates the fine competition you have fostered, nurtured and brought to the fore. I hope the Pantheon of Leather nominators read this and give it considerable thought for next year's awards. It would be one of their voters' best picks in 2000!

And for you dear readers, ABW should be on your list of "must do" events. It is absolutely lovely in our capital in April. I hope to see you all there next year!

Postscript

Since I was out of town for the entire weekend, I was unable to attend the party for Alan Selby, celebrating his acceptance as a U.S. citizen, and also had to miss the surprise birthday party for Donna Sachet. However, from all reports, everyone had a great time at both the events. ▼

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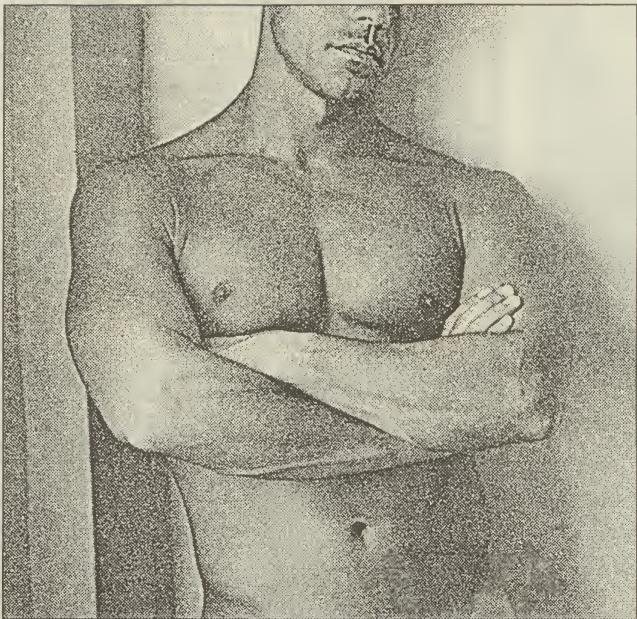
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BAR TALK



Steve Underhill

1.900.844.2227

Only 98¢ per minute to respond to ads!

Available only on touch-tone phones in the Bay Area. You must be at least 18 years old to call.

PARTING GLANCES

Watergarden 9:30pm 4/2/99
You: David from San Rafael. Sexy & hairy Didn't leave telephone number. Had to leave to catch Cal Train. Will we meet again. ☎ 7100

Easter Sunday-Eagle About 5:30
You: good looking, clean shaven blonde with friend. Me: standing at bar, muscular, in tank top. Wasn't sure about your friend. Can we fix that? I'd like to meet you. ☎ 7102

Scott You Answered My Ad
Entitled "Master seeks Slave", box # 6711, but you did not leave a complete phone number. Please call this box number would like to talk. ☎ 7103

Peet's Coffee On Friday 3/26pm
We winked at each other on Friday night @ approx. 9:00pm. Both of us were with someone. I was sitting & you smiled & winked. Pls. call. ☎ 7107

Bob 4/3 10:30PM
Your so clean smell good. Did you enjoy your B-day gift 4/8? I really like you. Pls call me Immy ABC ☎ 7201

Ballpark Express 4/3
Zane, we met on the bus after the Giants-A's game. I'd like to go to some Giants games with you. Please call! ☎ 7200

High Speed Cruising
We were both in our cars in Santa Clara driving to work. Nice smile! Want to connect up? ☎ 7108

Sat. Apr 3 Webster St. 10am
You: ate blue jeans, leather jacket, walking large black dog. Me: cruised in mini-van, stopped. You walked by and smiled. Would love to meet and talk. ☎ 7109

Civic Center Bar-Friday 4/2
Fremont train, 8pm exchanged smilies; You: Asian, khakis shorts, reading "Candle in the night". Me: earing, mustache, goatee, white jacket, NY mets cap, please call ☎ 7104

Easter @ Blow Buddies
Hi, Mark, this is Bob. We exchanged names after I took care of your gorgeous Easter basket at the stalls. You: blond, blue-eyed he-man, Me: salt & pepper. Let's do it again. ☎ 7101

U,GLM,Me GAM,24Hr-Flns@VanNess
Last year, you, 5'8"-ish, dark, sturdy, 3'0" approached me, 5'7", lean, 20's, at abdominal machine downstairs. I wasn't available then. You said, "Thank you very much" when left. Please respond. ☎ 7105

Twice! Castro? .0. & Spike's 4/1
You: cute, blonde, glasses, picked up in'tl parsel at P.O.M.; tall, dark, goatee standing in line. We: exchanged several looks & then at Spikes. We must meet. Coffee? ☎ 7106

Church & Clipper 4/5 8:45AM
I'm the blonde in the Taupe Toyota Avalon who turned in front of you on Clipper. You rolled into the intersection to get my attention. You got it! Let's meet. ☎ 7202

Pozole on April 1
I was an April Fool for reading my newspaper instead of noticing you. I left wondering how it could have been different. ☎ 7203

Elliott @ Church Seder 4/8
Thought you were both hot and handsome. We looked at each other diagonally across the table. Spoke briefly. Want to know you. ☎ 7204

Renegades
Kevin, I don't know you but I'm in Love with you. Would like more than just a hello, please help. Stephen. ☎ 7205

Cal-Castro- Former Park Attndt
I'm the guy w/ the old yellow Lincoln w/baseball cap. I was too shy to ask you out. Now you're not there. Call me! You're cute. ☎ 7206

Azteca Burritos 4/7 7:00
You: cute bearded bear eating alone. Me: cute goatbear eating w/a friend. I only had the nerve to say hi. Call me, handsome. ☎ 7207

Jerry
We met at the Detour, Sunday, April 4. You live in Vallejo. Lawyer. My name is Larry. I live in SF, Paralegal. Would like to see you again. Have a drink, etc. ☎ 7208

Looking 4 David At Feast
You pierced nose, just came back from 3 months travel. Missed your friends performance. Too busy with "our own show". Want some more of that. ☎ 7209

Eureka At 22nd Street
Don - I used to see you each morning waiting for the 35 bus - when I walked my small dog. Miss seeing & talking to you? Coffee? Dinner? Mack ☎ 7210

Steamworks 4/5
You East Bay originally from Spain. Me older, grey hair S.F. You came into my room, much fun, want more what a kisser - have car. Will travel. Call. ☎ 7211

Walking Up 17th St. 7:40AM
Monday 4/19. You: black jeans, greyish jacket, great mustache, tall, walking up hill. Me: mustache up steep. You crossed in front of me, our eyes met. Hope to hear from you. ☎ 7300

Lake Merritt Bart 4/12 6:40
You: short brown hair, cute. Coming up stairs with bike. Me: blonde, bearded with friend, deceiving. You blew me a kiss over the rail. Call me. Let's talk. ☎ 7301

Pepsi One @ Bell Mkt 4/16 2pm
You: handsome, glasses, blue shirt, tie. Me: lt. brn hair, shorts, yellow rugby shirt. I asked about your pepsi one; got strong feeling more discussion definitely necessary. ☎ 7302

Castro Tarts Sun 4/18
Our eyes met several times; me with friend from out of town, you alone reading Sundays paper. You have beautiful eyes! Short sicilian wants to get to know you. ☎ 7303

Fri Night Diamond St.
You parked, we talked, we played a little. You did not want to go to my place because your bf was out of town. I would like to see you again. ☎ 7304

Soulmate Sough

GAM, 49, 5'10", 155, HIV+, attractive looking for SGWM to share life with. ☎ 7110

Seeking Indian Gay Man
GWM, 53, 5'8", 175, brn/bl, beard, HIV+ with growing interest and fascination with the customs and people of the sub-continent, seeks relationship with gay Indian man. ☎ 7111

Asian / Pi Top Cutie
Massage my back; ride my firm butt. Attractive W/M, 48, Safe, neg, discreet. ☎ 7112

Looking For Something Good
Handsome black muscular Berkeley bottom bold, stache, goatee, 5'11", 33 ISO passionate top for companionship and good sex pluses facial hair, cowboy boots, light alcohol aroma ok. ☎ 7213

Black 47
My body one skin tone smooth, sensual, chest 49", big swollen nipples, love being sucked, hard legs, and big round butt. You 18-20 firstimers Blacks, Latinos, Asians only. ☎ 7225

East Bay
I'm the guy w/ the old yellow Lincoln w/baseball cap. I was too shy to ask you out. Now you're not there. Call me! You're cute. ☎ 7206

Zeateca Burritos 4/7 7:00
You: cute bearded bear eating alone. Me: cute goatbear eating w/a friend. I only had the nerve to say hi. Call me, handsome. ☎ 7207

Seek Boyfriend
Boylsh GWM 30, Navy brat, 5'7", athletic, enjoys movies, cuddling, dancing, intimacy, romance, current events, dining, hiking, sees guy to connect for LTR. ☎ 7116

Lonely & Not
GWM, 46, seeking GWM, 30-60 HIV-, nonsmoker, cut, bottom. Just be nice. SF only. ☎ 7221

Positive Mediator

Boylsh GWM 30, Navy brat, 5'7", athletic, enjoys movies, cuddling, dancing, intimacy, romance, current events, dining, hiking, sees guy to connect for LTR. ☎ 7116

Free Massage For Athletes

Great massage given by a very hirsute, husky middle aged semi-retired male. ☎ 7311

Seeking Soulmate
British poet, playwright, teacher. I'm 50, 5'9", slim, hairy, bearded, unct, romantic, very loyal. Love all arts including cooking. You are...whoever you are, but please be in shape. ☎ 7117

Boyfriend Search
GBM, 41, 5'10", smooth and trim, healthy, athletic romantic, military professional likes sporting and cultural events, seeks indoor intimacy and LTR. ☎ 7118

Man Hunt
Want- one GWM bottom over 45yrs old no exceptions... GWM to 50, 5'9" unc with solid stocky build, HIV- seeks relationship and monogamy with fun, honest, horny guy in S.F. ☎ 7119

Grandson Wanted
Distracted Architect, GWM 5'9", 155#, 32, trim, submissive, spankable, HIV- looking for someone to tend to my house, my properties, and me. I will take good care of you. ☎ 7120

Husband-Hunting Via Personal
Pur-lease! Yet why not? You: Sweet, Slim-ish (not fat). Sexy, smart, loving, Good lay! Me: great cocksucker (to lure you back for me to practice matrimonial wiles). Eternal bliss awaits! ☎ 7212

Trip To Monterey Bay
Distinguished Architect, GWM 5'9", 155#, slim muscular build, 40's HIV-, interested in healthy living, personal growth, enjoys music, pets, quiet home. Seeking GWM any race, 25-35, slim, no drugs or smoke, for LTR. ☎ 7213

Seeking Asian
Good-looking WM, 38, professional, intelligent, sophisticated, masculine, in-shape, sincere, caring, affectionate, loyal seeks one special Asian under 35 and in-shape, for shared togetherness and endless romantic possibilities. ☎ 7214

Slim Gdkgng Hip Retired Guy
Mustache, crewcut, 5'9", 150#, in good shape, HIV-, seeks relationship with gay Indian man. ☎ 7215

Cheess, Checkers or Cards
GAM, 49, looking W/M, 40's, non-smoker, ISO same. I'm looking mainly for friendship and support in Santa Rosa. ☎ 7216

Asian Men Tops
If you are a top, I'm a bottom for you. LTR. I'm GWM 165lbs. You won't be disappointed, I'm open for you any time. Yours. ☎ 7217

GWM Seeks Man Of Color
GWM, 44, blonde, bottom, HIV+ seeks friend for sex, friendship, possible LTR. Like the outdoors, theater, seeking warm caring individual, any age. ☎ 7218

GLM Bottom Seeks Older Top
Puerto Rican 38, bottom 5'9" 158# brown eyes, seeking older top hairy and heavy pluses, but I'm open. ☎ 7220

You Love Rivers
Surf, mountains, stars, storms; You're wild, curious, elemental, passionate, very lean, defined, with good ass, under 40. Your heart's open to discovery, laughter, tears, loving a soulmate. ☎ 7222

Handsome Muscular Italian
GWM, 38, 6'2", 185lbs, into fitness, travel, romance & quiet times, seeks another HIV Negative extremely well hung man for monogamous relationship. ☎ 7223

Positive Mediator
Boylsh GWM 30, Navy brat, 5'7", athletic, enjoys movies, cuddling, dancing, intimacy, romance, current events, dining, hiking, sees guy to connect for LTR. ☎ 7116

Just Shut-Up And Ride
W/M, 34, 5'10" 200lb blond/blue muscle hunk-48"ch 28"w 18"arms-wants good looking masculine men to get pumped or pump me. Also love to get massaged and jerked off anytime. ☎ 7122

Butt Munch
Let us explore the art of rimming your butt my face or vice versa. If you like GWM seeks other GWM for fun times. ☎ 7123

Daddy Likes Boy Butt
Handsome 50yo ape man stud, 6', 175, s&p, beard HIV+, seeks pussy boy with slim & muscular build for casual safe sex. You will have flat stomach, round butt. ☎ 7125

Policeomen, Firemen or Military
I want to service you on a regular basis, seeking men who are hot and in good shape. I'm WM, 57, 5'11", 168lb. Just lay back and enjoy! Call now!! ☎ 7126

Cock Worshiper Wanted
Hot, hung stud, early 30's, seeks dudes who know how to service a big hard dick. I want cock connoisseurs who can appreciate my beautiful piece. ☎ 7127

Wanted: Body Electric
42' sensual 6'4" 175 GWM seeks B.E. Techs to show me how. ☎ 7235

Tall Dark Handsome Loving Hunk
Passionate GWM LTR. Accomplished 6'2", 190#, 43, buffed gasso Italian. Fun, exclusive, sincere, HIV+ nonprogressor. Seeks similar 35-45, GWM, professional, relationship oriented for soulmate. Relationship. ☎ 7305

Sexy & Masc. Scorpio Next Door
Not cut out for mateless lifestyle in S.F. Pursuing a true-blue guy with a self assured but devil-may-care attitude towards others' expectations. Me: vigorous and intense 28yo, 5'8", 165lbs, br/H/E, terrific smile. You: well-balanced caucasian with similar attributes. Us: A complimentary combination! ☎ 7306

Clark Kent Admin From N.Y.
Assertive, affectionate, creative, articulate, warm, witty, young-looking GWM soulmate/sexmate, 40, 6'1", 178#, br/gr, HIV-. Let's fly together & kiss in high places. ☎ 7307

Wanted Dominant Guy
Quiet, nice guy submissive seeks dominant around 5'7", 150, in-shape, HIV-, 40-50, verbal sometimes, experienced. I'm in-shape, 45, attractive, interests sense of humor, possible LTR. ☎ 7308

Seeking No Partnership
Rope bondage master ISO serious masochist, who enjoy clothin, flagging et al for exploration, humiliation, pain & pleasure. You are in-shape & serious. I'm 5'9", 185lb. Warm & experienced. Relationship oriented. ☎ 7309

Educated African American
Young & cute 28, 5'6", 170 ISO friendship/itr with honest goodlooking intelligent HIV- single guys 23-35. I enjoy dancing, cooking, hiking, the beach & being romantic, serious reply!! ☎ 7310

Affectionate HIV + Asian
Asian, 5'7", 130, nice face and personality, toned body, likes movies, theaters, music, reading, cuddling, kissing, seeking 30/40ish GM, self confident, h/v proportioned non-feminine for itr. ☎ 7312

I'm Ready! Are You?
Cute GWM, slender, mid 20's, bottom, Christian, airlines employee, just moved to Bay Area, seeking spirited, fun & fun for flights, romance and itr. Let's play! ☎ 7313

A Tender Embrace
Is initially offered by this 65 y/o. GWM, 155lbs, 5'11", brown/hazel. Then, soft lips touch as we explore, taking our time with a drink and cigarette in Hayward. ☎ 7314

HIV+ East Bay Top Wanted
Capricorn, Cancer, Virgo, black hair, brown eyes, any race-HIV+ Pittsburgh Taurus, 37 blonde, 6'6, 185-Looking for suburban loving boyfriend to snuggle with and playhouse with. ☎ 7219

Asian Mdle ISO White Male
GAM, 38, 145lbs, 5'7", drk hair/eyes, smooth good built/fit. Likes outdoor/ beach/ theatre ISO WM 27-38, smooth, good built for friends & more. ☎ 7315

Seeking Friendship
My partner and all my friends have all passed on. I seek a friendship. I am 5'8" ISO regular guy. I enjoy everything except ballet. ☎ 7316

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Mellow Mouth 4 Manly Men

Friendly type with subtle technique will help you unload. I'm 47, slender, short beard, seek well hung face fucker, my place, can help. Be 35-50, trim, together, Black/White. ☎ 7121

Just Shut-Up And Ride
W/M, 34, 5'10" 200lb blond/blue muscle hunk-48"ch 28"w 18"arms-wants good looking masculine men to get pumped or pump me. Also love to get massaged and jerked off anytime. ☎ 7122

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42' sensual 6'4" 175 GWM seeks B.E. Techs to show me how. ☎ 7235

BAR TALK PERSONALS ARE FREE!

- Category
- Parting Glances
- Seeking Relationship
- Seeking Adventure
- Lesbian
- Fetishes
- Couples
- Others

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

Treat You Like A Woman In Bed?
Dominant, affectionate black male, 41, 5'10", 175, masculine, muscular, discreet, conservative, straight appearing seeks masculine, muscular, conservative, straight appearing white male to give me some pussy and service my dick. ☎ 7128

Do You Like 'Em Big And Tall?
Young 47 GWM, 6'4", 245#, bn/bl, 6" uncut bottom man ISO average to extra, uncut top men. Age/race unimportant, personality is. Hairy A+, buddies wanted. ☎ 7129

Discreet Handsome Bi-WM
Seek very discreet professional bi-WM, 25-45, to receive oral service weekdays. Uniforms, shirt and tie A+, must be fit, cut 7"+. Like glory holes? San Mateo. ☎ 7130

East Bay Dad Seeks Bondage Boy
20-30's interests/experience in sm/dm/submissive scenes. Boy needs to learn from older experienced mentor, 47, through on-going sessions. ☎ 7225

Hottest Top Seeks Asian Ass
To lick & to fuck. Good dick, body, looks & great sex. Try me. No strings. Must be under 40, smooth, slim, HIV-. Weekday afternoons in S.F. ☎ 7226

I've Got A Uncut Thick Inches!
For young friendly bottoms looking for fun. I am a handsome inshape blonde 38yr. old top who wants to play with you. ☎ 7240

Handsome Top Wants Some Butt!
Or nice soft mouth for pumping. I am in-shape blond, nice butt and have 8 uncut inches. For friendly fun bottoms. ☎ 7229

Midwestern GWM Seeks GAM 21-35
GWM, 28, 6'1", 180lb, hairy chest, top seeks GAM 21-35, boish, smooth, trim for soft kisses & HARD embraces. Students a plus. ☎ 7230

Big Dick Big Balls
Are yours to suck if you're well-built & under 40. Me: 55, tall & slim. Cum & get it! ☎ 7231

Hot WM Seeks Asian Bottom
Young, hung, HIV-. WM top stud seeks slim smooth Asian bottoms to rim & fuck. Available weekdays afternoons in S.F. ☎ 7233

Hung Tops Wanted
By confirmed bottom who knows what being a bottom is all about. GWM, 155lb., 45yo HIV+. ☎ 7236

Erotic Massage
Straight-looking fit WM 41 uses his hands and mouth to give a free hour massage for very masculine guys 18 to 42 with size 28 to 32 waistlines. ☎ 7234

Masculine Bottom
Seeking experienced, insatiable topman for ongoing plowing sessions A+ your S.F. place. I am well built, goodlooking WM, age 32. ☎ 7237

Regular Guys
Apply here. Seeking "unaffected" regular types for sex. You should be late 30's, cut 7"+, hairy, hairy. Top a plus. ☎ 7238

Looking 4 Tops W Big Tool
Goodlooking muscular Latin man looking for muscular top men with big cock for "au natural" fun. Me: Pos 32 muscular tattoos pierced. You similar 81/2 or more masculine. ☎ 7239

Blue-Collar Weekend Sex Buddy
Me: HIV + 34yrs, 5'11" 190lbs tall smooth bottom boy, br eyes & hair, clean shaven, men b/w 35-40 wet kisses A+ hairy chest & body A+ avrage shape, no alt-no head games. ☎ 7240

Big Dicks N Mirrors
For guys who like to watch. Handsome muscular Italian 81/2 top to bottom seek in shape guys for hot fucking in sucking. ☎ 7240

Straight Needs Cock Jerked-Off
Masculine, mature, WM seeking mature male to massage my lower back and butt, followed by slow sensual climaxing cock massage. Let me watch you J/O on my face afterwards. ☎ 7241

Springtime Adventure
Horny GWM, 40's, Italian, topman, 5'11", 190#, hairy, hairy nice. Sks hairy btm, GWM 40's, also in LTR, who needs more attention. Flexible schedule. SF only. ☎ 7241

Slave Seeks Master

Experienced leather slave, seeks to meet and serve Master Sadist in his dungeon or "playspace". Desires bondage & discipline from an experienced Top Man. Slave Is 41yo, 5'11", beard, hairy, goodlooking, football player build (work out daily), drug free. ☎ 7232

Uncut 33yr Old Asian
GWM under 42. Me: 5'71/2", 150lb seeks goodlooking GWM for friendship or more. ☎ 7243

Head For Sonoma County
If you are 18-35 and slender or medium build, great head and rimming await you. Me: middle-aged, nice looking, healthy, fun, generous. Daytimes only, anyday. ☎ 7244

SouthBay Black Cock Craver
Squeaky clean smooth, tan, toned, straight Italian, Iris, & Indian guy seeks hung hot black studs. 2 at once would be perfect. I'm goodlooking & willing to pay for it. ☎ 7244

Driving Naked And Erect
Nude drivers and exhibitionists show off in cars. Bare ass naked stroking an erect cock. Road rage with a hard-on. Nude carpool forming. Naked passengers welcome. ☎ 7245

Hot, Horny, Hung?
Slim, trim, cut WM strip naked, kick back for great ball n cock suck. Hungry mouth gives comp. satisfaction married, uniforms A+. ☎ 7317

Hot White Pig Bottoms Wanted
By 55 yr.old Caucain 6' 155lbs bm/bm glasses hairy chest & stomach 9" cut cock wants to fuck young white guys under 40 who have tight butts. ☎ 7318

It's Time To Get Real
Me: Asian 35 5'9", will do everything you say an race, age, size. Me just average but I will make your fantasy come true. No second thoughts. ☎ 7319

8" Cock Or BIGger
Mature slim short GWM HIV- with hot pussy, want to be fucked with big cock, & loves sucking cock slow. Plus knows how to use my butt muscles. Also like being spanked. No bay S.F. ☎ 7320

Wanted: Black Guy
I'm a good looking GWM, 42, 185lbs with dark short brown hair, blue eyes, mustache, and smooth body. I'm seeking black guys to give some oral service to. Only 25-45 need respond. ☎ 7321

Like To Get Off Late At Night?
Hot hung insomniac gives amazing oral service to hung, smooth guys. Immediate callback if you tell me what I want to hear, no chit chat please. ☎ 7322

Vans, SUV's, Trailer-homes, Cars
W/darkened windows. Turn me on, like to get naked for sex with in confines. Seeking owners of above for day/nite adventure. Aroma/hemp oil. Safe, HIV-. ☎ 7323

Black Top With Attitude Sought
By respectful white boy, slim, attractive, 38. Seeking slim to skinny, smooth, hung and verbal man. I'll worship you and serve you. Just snap your fingers, Sir. ☎ 7324

Just Shut Up And Ride
WM, 5'10", 200lb blond/blue muscle hunk- 48" ch 32" w 18" arms-wants good looking men to pump or get pumped. Also love to get massaged and jerked off -anytime. ☎ 7325

Discipline For You
Spanking, light to heavy. Novices welcome. Limited respect, role play possible. Me: attractive GWM, 46, 6'5", 250, stocky build brown hair/moustache. You: attractive GM (White, Asian, Latin), slim, 18-35, nice buns. ☎ 7326

Let's Suck Cock N Eat Ass
GWM, good looking, dark/brown, goatee, HIV+, 6'2" cut, seeks very oral 6'fer u.b. under 40, and ready to suck cock and eat ass. Let's have a beer, watch porn and have fun. Daytime, hairy, uncut A+. ☎ 7327

Bootlicker! Piss Drinker!
Mature cock sucker with respectful attitude wants to service well-endowed men who know what they want! ☎ 7321

Throat Open At 5:30 am?
Middle-age but hung Oakland man needs a traveling deep throat expert to drain my 5:30am hard on. All races, body types welcome. No beepers, beards. ☎ 7323

Silicon Valley Spanking Fun!
Cute/handsome WM, young 42, 5'9" 205 with a round spankable butt bends over for young or old and gives it good to "Bad Boys" 18-30. ☎ 7324

Your Feet My Face
Goodlooking, masculine guy wants to worship your feet with my hands and mouth, kick back while I make you and your feet feel good. Curious? All welcome. ☎ 7325

Swaty Jockstraps
My jockstrap gets kinda sweaty after workin out... looking for another insame mase guy into stickin his nose and tongue up there while I beat off. ☎ 7326

What's The Buzz?
Shave it all off! GWM wants to make you smooth! Ready to lose that stache/beard? Love to take it off for you! Bodies, balls, croch! All ages/types. ☎ 7136

Nasty Raunchy Pigs Wanted
Skin, gutter punks, party boys great, sweaty, unwashed bodies and clothing appreciated. Cum share your body tastes and smells. ☎ 7137

Great Butt Service
For younger guys who like to show off their hole and get it sniffed and eaten out by a hot, masculine guy. ☎ 7138

Top Seek Friendly Rimmers
Handsome uncut, hairy chest, in-shape well hung top with a bubble butt want some tongue action for fun and friendly rimmers. Lets do it. ☎ 7246

Hot And Horny
WM 38, 5'10", 160# Redhead, 7" uncut. Looking for guys into water-sports, butt play, and other aspects of kink. ☎ 7247

Tag-Team Partner Needed
Hairy muscled wrestler/boxer, 5'8", 140lb. ISO buddy/partner for frequent workouts, NHK fights, boxing. You under 200#, into weights, leather, s&m, boots, sweat, fists and more. ☎ 7248

Cum On Me
GWM 45, 6'1", 200lbs, wants one or more to cum on me. Let me suck or watch you j/o, then shoot your load on me. ☎ 7249

Submissive Wanted
Sophisticated muscular dominant. ISO together dominant for collared, psychological training cbt etc. Contract possible. Not into soma scene. Serious only. ☎ 7251

Novice Needs Training
From mas, in-shape white masters 35 and under. Me: Asian, 30, 5'9", 160, bottom, HIV-, tatts, into ws, tt, dildos, restraints, floggings. ☎ 7252

Wanted: Hot Young Barefeet
My jockstrap gets kinda sweaty after workin out... looking for another insame mase guy into stickin his nose and tongue up there while I beat off. ☎ 7327

The Hottest Guy In Town
Even the hottest guy in town is not worth risking your life over. Always play safe. Wear a condom and never exchange bodily fluids. Remember, safe sex is hot sex! ☎ SAFE

Young Slave Wants To Be A Dog
26yo every handsome submissive boy from Europe is looking for complete dog training by a cute and very demanding master under 35. Master will be satisfied with the dog. ☎ 7329

Feet! Fun! And Friendship!
Lifelong attraction to men's barefeet. Crave mutual barefoot kissing, licking, smelling, caressing, toe wrestling. Roles, fantasies, j/o. E.B sensual GWM w/loose ring, 5'9", trim, tan, hairy, HIV- loves barefootin! ☎ 7250

COPLES

Threeways Or Groups

Sexy, GWM, 56, 6'1", 175 wants to join a hot group or couples for steamy sex scenes. I'm fr a/p and br/a. Hung big. Call, maybe we can put a group together. ☎ 7253

OTHER

Self-Suck! Auto-Fellatio!
Self-suckers' 'showoff' meetings; small groups. Can give tips, techniques; help going down. Optional gifts; video of you and other hot self-suckers, limbering bodywork, steam bath, electric massagers. ☎ 7142

Swing Daddy
Really! Let's dance! Fit, fun 45yo prof GWM (lead) seeking younger GM (follower) to West Coast swing, two-step, waltz, etc. Some experience necessary but the package includes weekly lessons by prof dance teacher. Prefer medium to slight build guy mid 20s to 30s. Call ad for info. ☎ 7139

Canadian (East European), 31, average looks, rather lonely, sincere and compassionate, would like to learn more about California. ☎ 7140

Masculine/Muscular Smooth GBM VGL
In such of other gym toned mas, musc, guys who likes to J/O to hot video's kick back and relax. Good atmosphere. Sit back and enjoy. ☎ 7331

The Hottest Guy In Town
Even the hottest guy in town is not worth risking your life over. Always play safe. Wear a condom and never exchange bodily fluids. Remember, safe sex is hot sex! ☎ SAFE

Gay Comics #25
\$7.50 ea. post-paid (S&H included) \$8.00 Canada • \$9.50 Overseas

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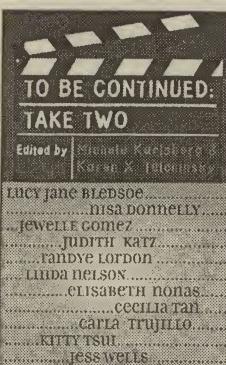
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Cliff-hangers

by Deborah Peifer

To Be Continued: Take Two edited by Michele Karlsberg & Karen X. Tulchinsky; Firebrand, \$12.95

If you were left on the edge of your seat by the cliffhanger stories in last year's *To Be Continued* (Firebrand, \$11.95), the wait is over. And if you decided to wait until the second part was published before parting with a dime, run, don't walk, to your independent bookseller, and feast on the remarkable short stories, begun in *To Be Continued*, and resolved, extraordinarily, in *To Be Continued: Take Two*. I'll admit that I cheated, and reread each first part before reading each second, but the result was glorious. These stories are substantial, funny, sexy, terrifying.

Consider "To the Flames," Jess Wells' tale of the burning times, when women were burned alive for knowing about herbs, for owning property, for healing the sick, for speaking their minds. Wells captures the terror of those centuries with skill and a poet's eye for telling detail. I won't tell how this or any of the other stories end, but I will say that the ending was completely justified and absolutely unexpected. Lucy Jane Bledsoe's "Three Weddings" celebrates friendship even as she offers wry commentary on the hell we put our friends through in the name of true love. Her ending avoids every trap that a less skilled writer might fall into, and the result is particularly satisfying.

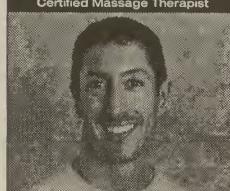
I suspect that what makes the cliffhanger aspect of these two books so workable (in addition, of course, to the considerable skill of editors Michele Karlsberg and Karen X. Tulchinsky) is that the payoffs in every case were well worth the wait. Seeing these gifted artists stretch their creative muscles in a format that allowed more length than the typical short story was a delight. The depth of character, the range of emotion, the intricacy of plot were wonderful to behold. I'm greedy, so I'd love to see *To Be Continued* become an annual present for all of us who love to read. ▶

Readings from To Be Continued: Take Two featuring Lucy Jane Bledsoe, Jewelle Gomez, Carla Trujillo, and Jess Wells take place at A Different Light, 489 Castro St., on May 3 at 7:30 p.m.

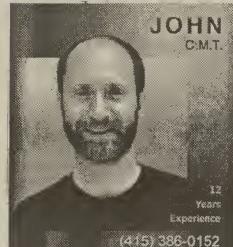
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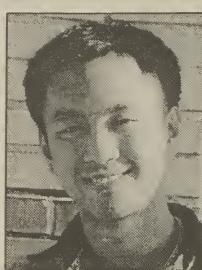
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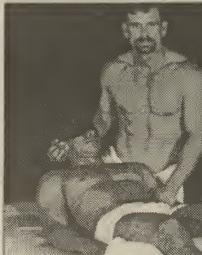
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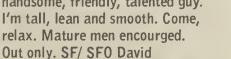
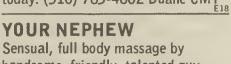
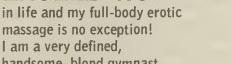
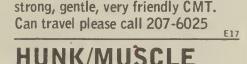
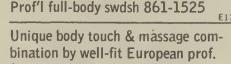
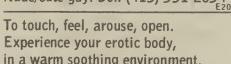
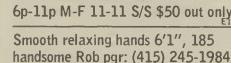
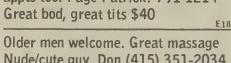
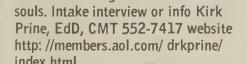
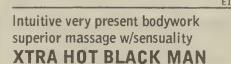
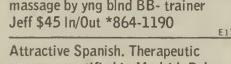
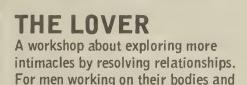
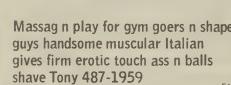
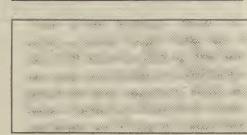
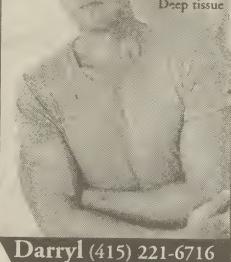
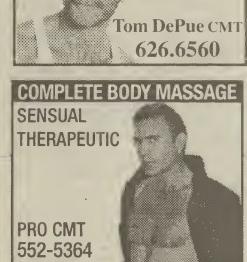
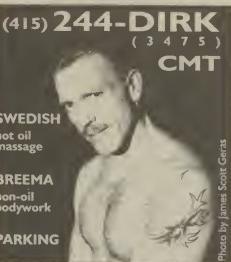
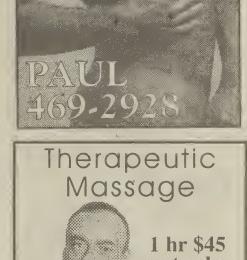
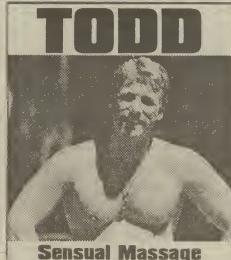
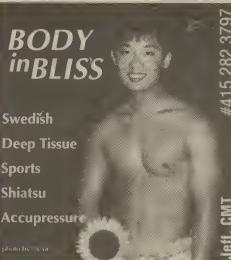
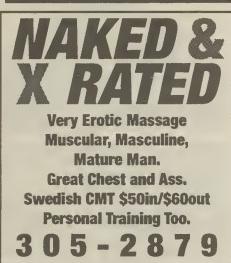
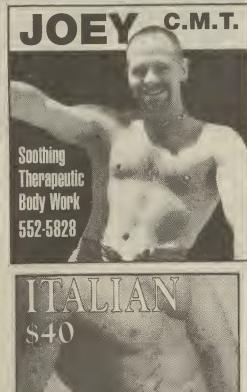
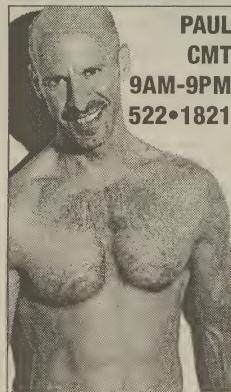
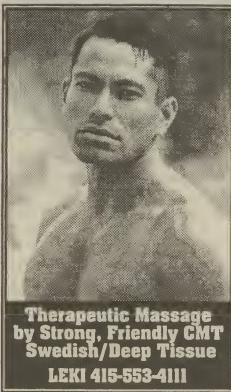
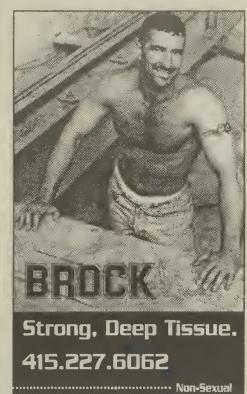
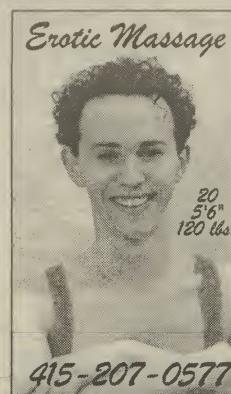
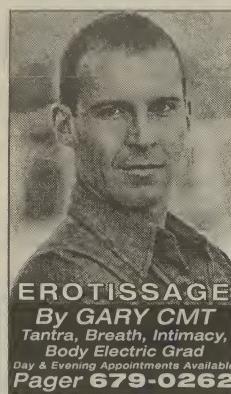
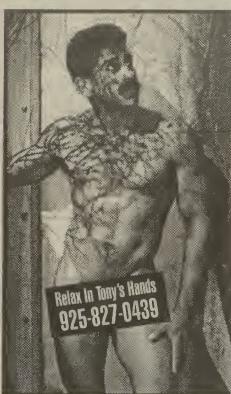
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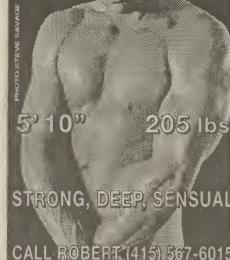
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Journey into butt attention. Explore rare erotic BUTT TECHNIQUES delightfully blended into FULL BODY massage. By Appointment. \$80. San Bruno. 650 875-8130



PROFESSIONAL MASSAGE THERAPIST

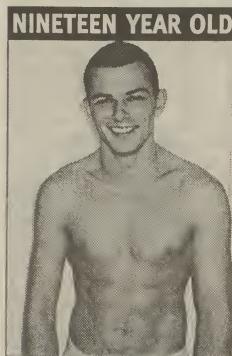


5'10" 205 lbs

STRONG, DEEP, SENSUAL

CALL ROBERT (415) 567-6015

MODELS/ESCORTS



NINETEEN YEAR OLD

Page: Josh 415-790-5109



ROCK HARD UNCUT BONER

1-888-837-7644

\$150/HR

EDUARDO • BIG NUTS

www.latinoescort.com

35, 5'9", 190, 44c, 34w, 17a

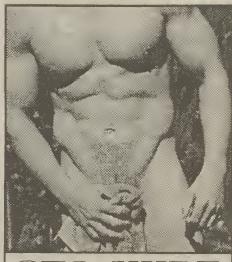
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HOUSECALLS NATIONWIDE

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RICK 415-720-1075

Berliner
Bratwursthandsome,
29 y, 5' 9",
150 lb,
8"uncut; 100.-90min(510) 644-0221
www.berlinboy.com

978-NUDE

HANDSOME, CLEAN-CUT, 36YO TOP

HOT, FRIENDLY, 5'7", 155#, IN/OUT \$150

ALL AMERICAN JOCK

REX, 26, 6'

Very Goodlooking, Blond, Masculine, Muscular Bodybuilder

46" Chest / 32" Waist/Thick &

Well-Endowed • Outcalls Only

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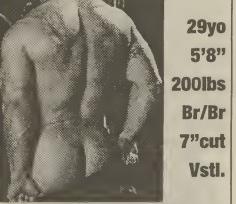


all scenes private space novices welcome

Luther 272-5847

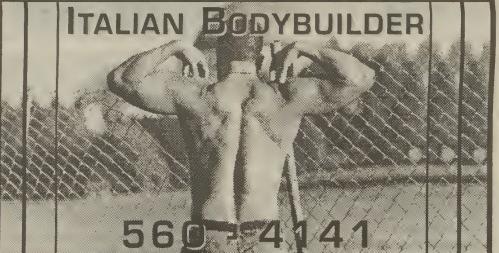
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w/ BIG LOW HANGERS
SENSUAL, INTENSE, HANDSOME
POLISH-CZECH
SMOOTH, DARK HAIR, BLUE EYES
29 Y/O, 6', 150#
\$120 • OUT ONLY
(415) 764-0773

ALL-AMERICAN MUSCLE BOY



29yo
5'8"
200lbs
Br/Br
7"cut
Vstl.

No Attitude
\$200 Out Only
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560-4141

ITALIAN BODYBUILDER

Great face, smile, lean body.
5'9", 150. I'm into body contact
cuddling, oral, verbal & guys who
like my feet. I have an outstanding
butt. Nice people call 339-7888
(anytime).

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GENTLE&AGRESIVE
Very experienced top, well endowed
handsome, sexy & very masculine. Will
fulfill all your fantasies 207-6117

E17
YES SIR!!
Masculine bottom to serve you
5'9" lean & smooth
Take control Page Nick 709-1467

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AUTOFELLATIO & MORE
81/2 uncut 25yr 6ft. 170# tatts
shaved head uninhibited
\$100 out 245-3629

E17
Distinguished Escort
Handsome age 43 hung 8x51/2
\$60 out only Dave 437-0772

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BUTT-BIG-PEKS-HORNY-
MOUTH CUTE MUSCLEBOD

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Cell# 510-407-9748

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6'150lbs, Thick jet-black hair.
Long eyelashes, defined, lean, toned
chest, beautiful sexy yummy ass.
Twin mounds of pleasure!

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Affectionate, passionate, exclusive
classy model looks serious, generous
discriminating clients. Hourly &
overnight rates. Hotels. SF based.
Nick 934-1209

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PORN STAR!!

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26yo slender but muscular
build pecs & fantastic butt! Into
vanilla, s&m, massage, bondage,
very affectionate & cuddly! Travel
In/out 24hrs. Nathan 505-8256

E17
Handsome 22yo w/packed shorts

E17
SOCCER JOCK

E17
Lean, athletic body-versatile
Kevin pg#605-5328 out only 24/7



TOP

Ready
And
WillingWILL FILL YOU UP.
VIDEO/MAG MODEL.
5'10" 165# 9" CUT.
IN/OUT \$100/120.

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LEATHER TOP!

Handsome, Expert Master
Light To Heavy Sensual S/M
TOM 415-487-1296E17
Kicks back for service *24 hours

10X6"UNCUT

Big fat tool 487-1679 Pgr678-1005

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Sexxy Escort/Masseur Travel OK Out
5'9" 175 Med hry 27yo Top/Italian
HOT STRAIGHT STUD!!!
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Masculine, Handsome, Hairy, Hung
6'4", 195#, Blond/Blue, Friendly
Page Adam 24 Hours 207-8089

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Better than Valium

Full Body Massage 715-6410 Brad

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Spanking & Paddling

Discreet, 773-9130 Kory

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NOT A BOYThirty something with good looks &
a sense of humor looking 4 adventure.
I'm well built, aggressive top!

XXXHUNGXXXXTHICK!!!

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MIKE,30,5'10",200#, Blk/Blu

Clean-cut, Muscle Hunk

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SIZE MATTERS

Hard raw tight long thick, juicy stud
A real 9" Experienced Top
Justin415-810-5611 \$85in/\$90out

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Tall, muscular, great pecs, 9"

Masculine Good Looks 764-6280

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SUPER THICK
UNCUT TOP 9"

masculine, clean-cut athletic build.

Goodlooking satisfying. In/Out 24hrs

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Solid muscular pecs, abs, & legs.

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5'9", 155#, 30", 8"ct 739-7312

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Oral service give and receive

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INTENSE FIST

Small expert hands. Out only

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6' 205#s of thick, hairy muscles.

X-handsome face w/beard. Easy to

intense. No drugs. 201-6533 (out),

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BIG HAIRY PECS

Masculine 32yr Stud W/a Furry

Stomach, Full Bush, Hard 8x6 Cut

& Chin Slappin' Low Hangers 6ft

190lbs of Solid Muscle 207-9045

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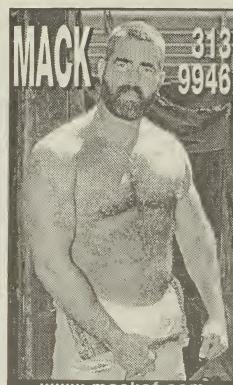
PERSONALS

MODELS/ESCORTS

IN TOWN APRIL 30TH THRU MAY 5TH



KENNETH SAWYER
6' 1/2" - 187 lbs
Featured in MEN & TORSO
415-522-2366



New in town! Just here from Ireland 21 yo uncut pg. 998 8087
Leave message for Conner

E17

Blonde, goatee, pierced, tattooed
LONG HAIR SURFER
6', 200, 31, very masc, muscular
great looking, passionate top
Zach 515-1428 msg. Out only

E17

Hot handsome Latin Jock
"8" hard thick smooth lean
body in/out call discreet
hot. Kith 415 560 5835

E18

SIZE 12 FEET 21 YO WM
739-9217 SF/OUT \$60

E17

SEXY 20YO EUROPEAN
6' 170# DANCER'S BUILT
LOREN 251-0067 pgr.

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9X7 FANTASY TOP MAN
Erik available 24hrs. 807-7776

E17

Hot 24yo incredible firm round
butt, beautiful tool. Completely
versatile 5'10" 150# 208-1763
Toe curling session!

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Totally smooth awesome body
DELICIOUS BLACK STUD
Expert oral vgl & masc. 414-0344

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Smooth, lean, masculing 6'oral-top
BIG-BONED BOY

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Emphasis on the bone! Big nuts 2
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MY OTHER JOB!
Hot sexy stud 29yo. 5'9" 160#
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Hammer me hard!
For your pleasure..

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INCREDIBLE
Built, Blnd, Horney & Hung
Bearing 42" Chest, Lean Smooth Abs
Matt 378-HARD Wkdays/Eve/Sun

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24' 140# blonde/blue

E17

HARVARD BOY

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Cute, lithe, and open minded
pager 415-232-3401 out only.

E17

WANT IT ROUGH?
Lean, smooth leather top, 32,
gives it like you need it
sm/bd/ff/wbs, dog/slave training

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PAGE JACK 790-3312

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FANTASY FULFILLMENT!
Uninhibited with aim to please
Into most scenes 5'11" 170# 32'w

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For quality Ron 415-790-6314

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SMOOTH BOY
5'11" 155# smooth swim bld vrstl
w/ great ass Kyle (415) 376-6396
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BLK HANDSOME STUD TOP
Very discrete and friendly clean
slim built with boyish looks and
well endowed also stays hard
first timers welcomed out only

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HOT HARD STUD
Versatile top, 31, 5'10", 175#, 8x6

E18

Jake* page 709-0338

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STUDPUPPY
Ultra-handsome guy with a super
tight build. Pager 212-1086

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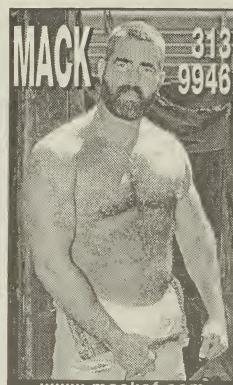
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For your pleasure..

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Bearing 42" Chest, Lean Smooth Abs
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24' 140# blonde/blue

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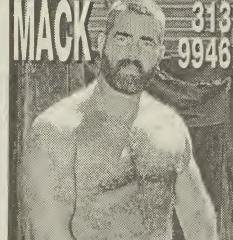
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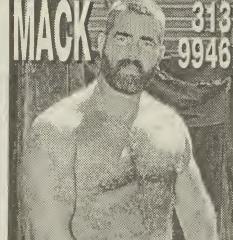
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